Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-192 *4 October 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Four Ministers Discuss Iraqi People's Suffering

JN0310212395 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A four-man ministerial meeting was held in New York today between the foreign ministers of Jordan, Qatar, Oman, and Tunisia to discuss important Arab and international issues on the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

The nearly two-hour meeting, also discussed issues related to the peace process and the continuation of the Iraqi people's suffering.

More Libya Palestinians Arrive at Egyptian Border

NC0310212095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—A delegation from the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR], led by Mustafa al- Jamali, director of the UNHCR's Cairo-based regional office in the Middle East, will visit al-Sallum on the Egyptian-Libyan border tomorrow, Wednesday. The delegation will inspect the conditions of more than one thousand Palestinians in the no man's land between Musa'id, the last Libyan border point, and al-Sallum, Egypt's last border point.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo said about 300 Palestinians arrived at the border today. The Libyan authorities erected about 200 tents for them, including one tent as a clinic and another one as a mosque.

Meanwhile, the Libyan embassy in Cairo has asked Arab, Egyptian, and foreign journalists in Cairo to go to the Musa'id area tomorrow to attend Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's news conference there.

Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent delegate at the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has addressed an appeal to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Subayh asked al-Qadhdhafi to respond to President Husni Mubarak's beneficial intervention to halt the Palestinians' deportation.

Subayh expressed his hope that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will preserve the Arab nation's reputation and Palestinian women's and children's dignity now that it is certain that Israel will not respond to the Palestinians' return this way.

He said this measure has in fact conveyed its purpose and that the Palestinians have suffered enough in these circumstances.

He added that many Palestinian parties have appealed to President Mubarak to intervene and end the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees who have been expelled from Libya, including requests from President Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestine National Council.

Palestinians in Darna Returning to 'Palestine'

LD0210233795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian masses in Darna, while getting ready to return to Palestine this evening, held a popular conference in which they asserted their determination to return to Palestine. These masses issued a statement, at the end of their meeting, in which they stressed their commitment to the principle of the total liberation of the land of Palestine.

The Palestinian masses in Darna announced their full support to what was mentioned in the speech of the leader of the revolution during the celebrations of the 26th anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution. They reaffirmed that the decision to return to Palestine had revived hope in the hearts of the Palestinian people and had shaken the thrones of those pursuing the mirage of illusory solutions.

The Palestinian masses in Darna sent, at the end of their conference, a cable to the brother leader of the revolution. It said: 'You who honored the Arab nation with your courageous pan-Arab stances, we praise these lofty stances of yours. We say to you march, and we are with you as you have always known us to be. We, the children of Palestine present on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah and from the brave and steadfast city of Darna, support what was mentioned in your historic speech on the 26th anniversary of the great 1 September Revolution.

The decision to return to the land of the forefathers, to Palestine, is a historic decision that has been on the minds of our Palestinian people for nearly half a century. The opportunity to return, which our people have been waiting for for so long, has come. We, the Palestinian people, implore you to implement the decision of an honorable return to Palestine. With you and through you, we will achieve this honorable return in defiance of colonialism and the reactionary regimes and no matter how frenzied the attacks of the forces of oppression and aggression are.

Signed by the masses of the Palestinian people in the city of Darna.

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Palestinian Families Express 'Gratitude' to Libya

LD0210151995 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli Al-Tumur [October] 2 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Arab Palestinian families continued their journey towards Um Saad en route to Palestine, confirming their determination to implement the resolution of the Palestinian masses which was adopted by the People's Congress held last Thursday in which they decided on the return to Palestine according to the speech delivered by the leader of the revolution on the Eid of all Eids, the 26th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

In statements made to JANA, the Palestinian families expressed their deep appreciation and immense gratitude for the great Jamahiriyah and the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution for their brotherly treatment and for hosting the Palestinian people on the land of the Great Jamahiriyah during a number of decades.

Yusef Ajawi, one of the Palestinians returning, said in a statement: I am returning with my family and we are eager to return to our homeland Palestine after deciding on the return ourselves, emanating from our legitimate right to return to Palestine as we have more rights than those Jews who immigrated and settled in our land Palestine.

Mohammed Mustafa Gadura, who is a Palestinian from Acca, said: We reject settlement anywhere in the world and we have stayed in the Great Jamahiriyah for many years and now we are returning to Palestine because that is our target since the launch of the popular Palestinian revolution in order to establish the Palestinian state and we reject all the liquidationist projects because we want the whole of Palestine and we want the frontline Arab states to open their borders to us because we are much more rightful than the Falasha Jews, the Hazar Jews and those Jews from the diaspora.

Islamic Affairs

Lawyer Accuses Judge, U.S. of Bias in 'Abd-al-Rahman Case

MM0310144795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with 'Abidin Jibarah, defense lawyer for Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abidin Jibarah, an American of Lebanese stock and defense lawyer for Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, reports that early yesterday morning the American authorities transferred Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman to a prison in a remote area whose location was not revealed to the lawyer during their talks with him.

Jibarah added that the transfer was made because of the political character attaching to the trial and the age of Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman. He added that the pretext given by the authorities for transferring Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman was that they wanted to move him to a place suitably equipped with the health facilities necessitated by Shaykh 'abd-al-Rahman's condition, that is, facilities capable of providing immediate treatment for diabetes and heart troubles. He himself considered these pretexts flimsy, because [Shaykh 'Abd-al- Rahman] was not complaining of any health problem at present.

Jibarah, who made this statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the day following the New York jury's conviction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman and nine of his followers on 25 charges, added that Judge Michael Mokassi's [name as transliterated] inclinations "were always in the state's favor, because he was previously a public prosecutor, and he did not permit a fair trial from the beginning." He added that the conviction "did not constitute a total defeat for us."

Jibarah described the case as being "a political case and not an ordinary case, because the state has made a great effort and the trial has cost it over $10 million. So it would not be easy to convince the appeal court of any judicial mistakes that would necessitate a retrial."

Jibarah described the legal grounds for making an appeal, saying that it was the duty of the lawyers to prove any legal errors in the first trial before the court could accept an appeal and order a retrial. He said that he did not believe that there were high hopes of success in this regard.

Attorney Jibarah reviewed the case from its beginning, saying: "The charges leveled against Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman were that he gave a radical interpretation of Islam, that he was the leader of a jihad group, that he advocated jihad, that he secured allegiance on the basis of this objective, and that he issued religious opinions in this regard. Thus the state based its charges on a number of Islamic principles. So we for our part asked to summon three experts in Islam as witnesses to expound to the jury the following points: what jihad means in Islam; what the role of the shaykh (i.e. any man of religion in general) is and what his relationship is to the faithful; what an infidel is; and what the relationship is between state and religion in Islam."

Jibarah added: "But the judge denied our request, saying that the presentation of these witnesses would only confuse the jury."

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Attorney Jibarah reviewed some of the aspects of what he described as constant bias on the part of the judge. He said: "From the start, when preparations were being made for the selection of members of the jury panel, we requested that the judge ask the candidates for the jury whether they were opposed to Islam, to Muslims, or to Arabs. But he denied the request. When the trial began, as we were presenting our opening plea, one of the accused, namely the Sudanese Ibrahim Sadiq 'Ali, was bargaining secretly with the state, and the judge was aware of this fact. Yet he let us present a plea based on the impression that Sadiq was one of the defendants without telling us what was going on. The defense had a right to this information, and the judge failed to protect that right."

Attorney Jibarah also spoke about "the judge's refusal to allow us to obtain information about contacts that had taken place between Egypt and the American Governments with a view to the arrest of Abd-al-Rahman, because we believe that his arrest was carried out at the Egyptian Government's request. All these things prevented the staging of a fair trial."

Jibarah borrowed some quotations uttered by one of the great U.S. defense lawyers, who was accused of radicalism because he defended political defendants on numerous occasions, namely attorney William Kanzler, whose representation of 'Abd-al-Rahman after his arrest but prior to the trial was rejected by the judge and who died few weeks ago. The quotation he borrowed says: "No Muslim can have a fair trial here."

"We thought that Kanzler's statement was mistaken," Jibarah said. "He proved us wrong. The trial was political and was politically managed."

Jibarah also referred to the Egyptian informer 'Imad Salim, saying that "had it not been for 'Imad Salim there would have been no case. He was the one who drove them all along and exploited their innocence."

When I pointed out the role of the defendant Sadiq 'Ali, who turned state's witness in support of the charges, Jibarah accused Sadiq of being "a madman tailored to suit 'Imad Salim, who used him as a passport to wealth," namely the money, amounting to over $1 million, which Salim received in return for the recordings he provided.

Jibarah affirmed that 'Abd-al-Rahman "believed in the jihad, never said that he was opposed to the jihad, said that he believed in the jihad in defense of Islam such as the jihad in the Philippines, Afghanistan, and Bosnia... but never called for jihad in the United States."

Jibarah then reverted to talking about the judge once more. He said that the judge "Wanted the trial to end in the defendants' conviction. He ruled against us and in favor of the state on numerous occasions, even in procedural matters."

Jibarah compared the 'Abd-al-Rahman trial with that of O.J. Simpson, accusing the state of "racism" in both cases and saying that he considered this "an important part of the American system." However, he distinguished between the racism in the Simpson case, which he said was based on domestic structures and characteristics, and racism in this case, which was an anti-Islamic and xenophobic form of racism."

Jibarah said that the jury which convicted the defendants consisted of three white Americans, seven Black Americans, and two Puerto Ricans, adding that "when the time came for this panel to take what was described to them as a decision for the protection of the United States, they decided to be Americans first, particularly as this case did not concern internal mechanisms like that of Simpson."

Attorney Jibarah said that he was not surprised by the jury's decision, "since they had deliberated for 36 hours about a case that involved 200 witnesses and over 1,000 pieces of evidence. Furthermore, it was a case in which 20 FBI men gave testimony in which they spoke of illegal dealings [ta'amul ghayr qanuni] such as lies and the like to prove the state's case. All this implies that the jury did not take this matter into consideration and that the jury members based their decisions on the fear that was presented before they entered the courtroom and the fear that the public prosecutor continued to present throughout the trial."

Jibarah said that 'Abd-al-Rahman "actively participated in the work of the defense, wanted to know all details, and showed great interest, particularly in regard to the role of the FBI."

Jibarah concluded by saying that the defense "has achieved great successes, the most important being that all the defendants put up a good fight, in which we unmasked many of things that take place inside the FBI, made the FBI testify to them, and recorded the fact. We also exposed the court proceedings and the state's role through its refusal to invite experts on Islam — for which it owes an explanation to Muslims throughout the world. We also proved that we could put up an important defense and talk about the legitimate rights of all citizens to express their religious views...which means that our defeat was not total."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 Sep

NC0310130595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 26 September edition of

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the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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PARTY LEADERS AGAINST INVOLVING ARMED FORCES IN POLITICS

An unattributed 1,000-word report on page 1 states: "The decision to refer the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood to military courts has left a bad impression on citizens." A statement signed by Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din, Diya'-al-Din Dawud, Khalid Muhiy-al-Din, Mustafa Kamil Murad, and Ibrahim Shukri maintains that "referral to military courts forcibly involves the Armed Forces in political and party affairs" and that "trying civilians before military courts constitutes a violation of the international agreement concerning civilian and political rights, which Egypt signed."

The statement points out that the civilians referred to military courts "were unjustifiably remanded for months although it has not been proved that they used violence or pursued terrorist methods."

The leaders say in their statement that "public opinion in Egypt and outside has reason enough to believe that the aim of the measures taken against these Muslim Brothers was to deprive them of running in the People's Assembly elections by letting a military court issue hasty criminal convictions against them."

The opposition leaders appeal to the president of the Republic "to review Decision No. 279 for the year 1995, which referred the Muslim Brothers to the Supreme Military Court."

The report notes that "a high-ranking delegation representing major British lawyers has decided to head to Cairo within days to join the team of Egyptian lawyers defending the Muslim Brothers." The British lawyers plan to meet the president and officials to demand a review of what they termed as "a hasty, unconstitutional decision."

DETAINED BROTHERHOOD FIGURE URGES 'STOP BLOODSHED, RELEASE DETAINEES'

In a 2,500-word report on page 3, Qutb al-'Arabi gives "excerpts" of the interrogation the State Security Prosecution conducted with Dr. 'Isam al-'Uryan, assistant secretary general of the Doctors Association, who is remanded in custody along with other Muslim Brothers. In the "excerpts," al-'Uryan addresses "a message to President Husni Mubarak to stop the bloodletting and release thousands who are being detained without charge."

In his answers al-'Uryan states that he "totally agrees with what Martyr Imam Hasan al-Banna said in his messages." He explains that the Muslim Brothers rely on "three principles:" understanding Islam adequately, believing that shari'ah is applicable anytime anywhere, and promoting amity that binds all Muslims together. He adds that preaching these principles is done through "pursuing all the methods made available by modern laws, as well as through writing, issuing magazines and newspapers, publishing books and studies, taking part in conferences, and participating in public elections to convey the people's views to officials."

Al-'Uryan says there is no "legally recognized entity bearing the name of the Muslim Brotherhood," explaining that the "Muslim Brothers exercise their thought as a political and Islamic school as individuals within legal and constitutional limits."

Asked about his involvement in sending some elements abroad under the cover of relief work, he replies that this is "nonsense and substantiated by no evidence." He adds that the State Security Investigation Bureau only seeks to "tarnish" the image of the Doctors Association and its members out of fear that "their outstanding activity and the services they render doctors will create harsh competition for the National Democratic Party candidates in the elections."

Al-'Uryan demands "a new social contract" to organize relations among all categories of society and give everyone the chance to express their views. He states that running in parliamentary and municipal elections is a "right the Constitution guarantees every citizen," adding

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that this right should not be restricted. He defends the citizens' constitutional right "to hold peaceful meetings without carrying arms" and the right of press establishments to enlighten the people.

Asked about the audiovisual recordings the prosecution holds as evidence against the Muslim Brothers, al-'Uryan states that these recordings were made "in violation of the law and the Constitution."

Al-'Uryan calls on "the president to turn over a new leaf and stop the flow of blood involving the young men of the police as well as those young men who are not without loyalty and who only need counselling to build this nation." He also calls on the president to "release the thousands of detainees who are remanded in custody pending investigation in endless cases."

ISRAELI GENERALS CONFIRM RABIN'S INVOLVEMENT IN POW'S KILLING

A 300-word report by Mahmud Bakri, page 1, says: "The Israeli Joint Staff has received letters from 11 Zionist generals who were involved in the massacres of the Egyptian POW's, threatening to reveal the secrets in their possession if the government contemplates their interrogation or uses them as scapegoats in the case."

According to the report, the generals stated in their letters that they had "official orders" signed by senior Israeli military officials, primarily Yitzhaq Rabin, chief of the Joint Staff in 1967, "instructing the physical liquidation of the Egyptian POW's."

The generals threatened to "present these documents to the Egyptian Government if they are used as scapegoats in these crimes," the report says.

LABOR PARTY CANDIDATE IN MALLAWI ARRESTED

An unattributed 50-word report on page 1 says: "The security forces in al-Minya stormed the Labor Party headquarters in Mallawi last Saturday [21 September] and arrested Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Lutfi, secretary of the party's branch in Mallawi and the party's candidate in the coming People's Assembly elections."

According to the report, Shaykh Lutfi, who is also imam of the al-Nur Mosque, was at a meeting with the families of the detainees when he was arrested and taken to an "unknown destination."

EHRO SLAMS INTERIOR MINISTRY'S REPLY ON VIOLATIONS

An unattributed 300-word report on page 1 says the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, EHRO, has criticized the interior minister's remarks on an earlier report about human rights violations in prisons, pointing out that these remarks "say nothing new and only show that the Interior Ministry is pursuing the same old policy in responding to accusations." EHRO adds that the minister's remarks "only deny the EHRO report, providing no objective evidence to refute it."

The organization says that "exposing these violations, investigating them, and punishing those responsible for them are the natural approach to stopping them and protecting the country's reputation."

KING HUSAYN'S ROLE IN AMERICAN-ISRAELI DOMINATION EXAMINED

Al-Sayyid al-Ghadban's 1,000-word article on page 12 talks about Jordan as "the royal door to the American-Israeli domination of the Arab region."

He beings by noting how "British imperialism" proclaimed Transjordan to "perpetuate" its domination of the region before leaving it. He then shows that America "inherited" the British influence over the region and started to "use Jordan's special geographic and political location to dominate the region and prepare Jordan to be the Arab bridge for Israel to launch its schemes and realize its ambition to control Arab wealth and markets."

Al-Ghadban says King Husayn "opted to act quietly and rely on secret contacts with the Israelis, while raising the slogans of pan- Arabism and the higher pan-Arab interests in public." He points out that the king's "political shrewdness and experience and the constant Arab conflicts and discord always gave him an excellent opportunity to reorganize his friendships and alliances at the various stages."

The writer continues, saying the king almost lost his role when he miscalculated during the Gulf war. But, he adds, the growing U.S. interests in the region created a need for "an Arab cover to conceal its moves and legitimize them." Hence, America reopened the door to King Husayn to "reorganize his alliances" after being reassured during "active secret contacts" that he was capable of turning Jordan into "the royal door through which the American- Israeli domination can spread to the Arab region and to some Islamic countries as well."

The writer adds that the king "rushed to the doorstep of the White House" and concluded deals to "end his financial predicament and get the necessary political support to expand his Hashemite rule, in return for letting America and Israel utilize Jordan's Arab and Islamic status to implement their plans to dominate the Arab region and penetrate Islamic states."

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Al-Ghadban reviews the steps the king took along that road, starting with his announcement on Jerusalem after the Palestinian- Israeli agreement, "which weakens the Palestinian position on the issue of Jerusalem."

He points out how the king "produced the Jordanian-Israeli agreement dramatically" then began "his rush toward Israel," opening all the roads to Israel to cross the Jordanian gate to every Arab and Islamic state. He also notes the "leasing" of Jordanian land to Israel and the "joint ventures" that "whetted Israel's appetite" for more. He then notes the king's role in declaring Amman as "a center for propagating the Middle Eastern market according to Israeli and American terms."

Al-Ghadban maintains that the Jordanian "royal generosity" encouraged Israel to use Jordanian cover to penetrate Islamic states and turn Jordan into "the Trojan horse with which it might enter Bosnia."

The writer says he believes that Jordan will "continue to implement this plan" with America and Israel's encouragement. He pins hopes on the Jordanian people "resisting" these schemes and wishes the king "would reconsider and take his people's side."

BROTHERHOOD OFFICIAL ON HOSTILE CAMPAIGN

Mustafa Mashhur's 2,000-word article on page 5 talks about the "misleading and defamatory media campaign" against the Muslim Brothers and the "accusations leveled at random by some hired pens, newspapers, and magazines who cajole the government unaware of the responsibility their words entail or the impression they leave."

Showing how Prophet Muhammad viewed "perjury" as "a cardinal sin", Mashhur explains the responsibility of journalists, security forces, prosecutors, judges, legislators, voters, and officials to safeguard the "trust" the Almighty invested in them to avoid God's wrath.

He states that a journalist must be honest in explaining the truth to the public to guide them to do good and warn them against harm. He adds that the journalist who misleads the readers with false information is like one who plants a "malignant germ" in the body of society.

The writer adds that security men who submit "false reports and allegations" to their superiors are not aware of the injustice these reports might involve for some people. He warns interrogators and security men that God sees the injustice they inflict on detainees.

He adds that God will bring prosecutors to account and punish them for every error or falsity they include in their indictments against innocent people just to indulge the rulers or superiors. He urges prosecutors to be honest to avoid doing injustice to the innocent and incurring God's wrath. He adds that their fear of punishment by their superiors should not encourage them to do injustice, since "worldly punishment is much easier than punishment hereafter."

Turning to judges, Mashhur urges them to be "neutral" and objective in their judgment "even if it takes withdrawal from a case if he expects the people in power to be angry at him if he does not rule in their favor..., this is better for him than doing injustice to an innocent person by convicting and sentencing him without cause," he says.

Mashhur reminds legislators that God will bring them to account for every unjust law they approve knowing that it violates individuals' rights, does them injustice, or suppresses them.

The writer maintains that a voter who votes for an MP who does not observe God and gives no regard to people's interests is an accomplice to the sin. "The people should know that their votes are a trust from God and that the Almighty will bring them to account.... if they betray this trust or use it to oblige a certain party for trivial financial gains."

Mashhur reminds "every official" that he should observe God in the trust invested in him. He must do no harm and refrain from betraying, doing injustice to the people, or going astray, since God's soldiers observe and register all his moves, no matter how small they may be.

He finally urges the people to respond to God's advice and use his blessings for the good of this world and the hereafter.

WRITER SUGGESTS PLAN FOR ISLAMISTS ELECTORAL BATTLE

In an "Urgent Message to the Islamic Stream", Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus writes in his 500-word column "The Natives," page 8, asking the "Islamic stream" if it has prepared for the coming elections. He affirms that the "heaviest slap the Muslim Brothers and the Labor Party can deal to this oppressive regime is to stand up and challenge it and to enter this electoral battle strongly so that the government will know that its plan to obstruct the Islamic stream's entry has blown in the wind."

'Abd-al-Quddus points out "four important observations" in the electoral battle. He states that competition will be "basically between the Islamic alliance and the ruling party." He, therefore, expects Islamists to be "harassed" severely to prevent them from winning by any way possible, "even by hooliganism and rigging."

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He underlines the need for "coordination with nationalist powers and respectable public figures who are running in the elections." He states that such cooperation is "to refrain from competing with them in their constituencies." He is strongly against coordination with the semi-Islamists, al-Muta'aslimin, who are known for their extremist tendencies and who work for separating religion from state."

He stresses the need for selecting the "exemplary" Islamist candidates who will honor Islamists and refrain from using religion to serve their personal interests. He points out that it would be "a shame" for Islamists to disagree on candidates.

He finally points out that "it is not enough to raise the slogan that Islam is the solution". "The meaning and design of that slogan must be explained in detail, particularly after it was distorted severely by the enemies of the Islamic stream," he stresses.

"Islam is certainly worthy of providing a strong foundation for a revival and a successful lifestyle, provided that those responsible for it are up to the responsibility," 'Abd-al-Quddus Says, concluding that Islam is the basis of progress and that "it is illogical for us to let some people drag us backward in its name."

OPPOSITION WORKING GROUP DENOUNCES MILITARY TRIALS

An unattributed 50-word report on page 8 says that " the Egyptian opposition working group held a meeting with the Egyptian ambassador in London, Dr. Muhammad Shakir, last Friday. The group's representatives , Dr. Ahmad Fahmi and Muhammad Ghanim, presented the group's view on current events in Egypt. They voiced the group's rejection of the referral of civilians to military courts, its concern at what is happening in Egypt, and its fear of a further deterioration in the situation."

The group handed the ambassador a message to this effect for President Husni Mubarak, the report says.

PARTY LEADER URGES COORDINATION IN ELECTIONS

A 2,000-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid and Hamdi Mas'ud, page 8, gives an account of a "popular rally" held on 21 September to inaugurate a new office for the Labor Party in Kafr al-Dawwar.

Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri, who inaugurated the office, talked about "harassment" by the security forces and about how the authorities "denied us a microphone, giving it to wanton singers and dancers" and how the country "has been living under emergency laws for 13 years."

Shukri noted that while people "live in cemeteries, there is a $50-million worth block of flats with a landing strip on top." He also talked about how "some graduates stay jobless for 15 years in a country with enormous industrial and agricultural capabilities."

He warned of the "future" repercussions of GATT and a "Middle East market that will serve Israel." Calling for justice, Shukri denounced the referral of civilians to military courts.

He invited "all opposition parties to coordinate in all electoral constituencies to stand up against the assault of those who have the capital, the narcotic dealers, and the beneficiaries of the National Democratic Party."

CONFERENCE URGES UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON POW'S

A 2,000-word report by Khalid Yunus, page 3, gives an account of a rally organized by the Freedoms Committee in the Lawyers Association on 21 September to discuss the "martyred" Egyptian POW's.

The rally called on the Egyptian government to "refer the POW case to the UN Security Council to issue a resolution binding Israel to hand over the criminal Zionists for a trial on Egyptian soil." It also called on the government to "publicize the documents and evidence that incriminate these criminals and to immediately stop searching for the remains of Zionists killed on our soil."

The conference called on the defense minister to demand the "martyrs' rights and dues" from Israel and to publish the names of the martyrs and missing persons so that their families can file lawsuits for compensation.

The conferees appealed to Egyptian public opinion to put pressure on the government to raise the case at conferences and seminars to expose the Zionist crimes. They called on Dr. Fathi Surur to raise the issue at the World Parliament and on Dr. Butrus-Ghali to support his country in raising the issue at international organizations.

The conference also demanded the expulsion of the Israeli embassy and the halting of all forms of normalization with the "Zionist enemy."

SCHOLAR SLAMS CALL TO ELIMINATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Muhammad al-Ghazali's 300-word column "This Is Our Religion", page 12, Notes "an appeal" which the "Great Masonic Lodge of the Orient" made to "the liberal builders" urging them to "double the losses they inflicted

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on Islam and work for eliminating religious education in pre-university schooling so that the Islamic tide will lose one of the greatest tributaries that helped it survive."

Al-Ghazali notes that the appeal "praises the establishment of Israel as one of the greatest states of the Middle east" and points out that Arab states recognize it and that "many Arabs" established relations with it.

He admits that "the powers that are hostile to Islam have won big battles against it", and that this has "strengthened atheists and weakened the faithful."

He maintains that these powers "reassured whoever deviated from Islam about his future." He [illegible] Rushdie as an example, noting that he "spent two hours with the President of the United States." Al-Ghazali wonders if a single man of religion who believes in God and tries to unite the various religions would have been given such an opportunity.

Shaykh al-Ghazali states that it is "clear that the major establishments and pacts hate Islam, its language, its present, and its future." He sees a tendency to "favor the French francophone and the English Commonwealth over the Arab League."

Al-Ghazali regrets that the scientific material that used to nourish students 50 years ago is being eroded and weakened nowadays.

Noting that rabbis allow Israeli soldiers to rebel against whatever conflicts with the Turah, he affirms that this would mean more "lynchings and detention" if it happened in an Islamic country.

He finally states that all he wants is for Islam "to have the right to live in its homeland and to be able to protect its canons, rituals, and values."

SYNDICATE OFFICIAL DENIED TRAVEL

A 50-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi, page 8, says that the security forces prevented Dr. Anwar Shihatah, the Doctors Association's pursur, from travelling last Wednesday.

Dr. Shihatah was heading to Croatia with a delegation to complete some paperwork concerning the association's relief committee which had been requested by the Central Accounting Apparatus. After completing all travel procedures, Dr. Shihatah was told that he was banned from travel, the report says.

Dr. Shihatah tried to no avail to know the reason for or see an official document stipulating this ban.

Dr. Hamdi al-Sayyid, chairman of the Doctors Association, made intensive efforts last Wednesday to finish the travel procedures or at least know the reason for the ban. But his efforts were to no avail, the report says.

WRITER SLAMS GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF POW'S CASE

In his 5,000-word article on page 2, Majdi Ahmad Husayn slams the regime for its handling of the POW issue, pointing out that the "total sum of the Egyptian *official action on the matter since it was publicized is a* big zero."

He notes that the state acted "as though it was an opposition party that could do nothing but talk and [illegible]m." It gave "limited space" in the official press to "lament" the victims and "plead for Israel's sympathy". He adds that the government requested an apology from Israel and the latter turned the request down and that it requested an investigation and was again turned down.

Husayn adds that all this was "paralleled by a pacifying media campaign to belittle the matter." He regrets that the president led that campaign, stating that "he was careful to avoid a problem with Israel on the matter."

Examining the technical side of the issue, he says that Israel should not have been asked to run an investigation, since it could tamper with it. He believes that the Foreign Ministry's memorandum "should have contained a strongly-worded protest, followed by a referral to international arbitration if Israel refuses to admit the seriousness of the case."

He adds that the government could have taken "escalatory measures" vis-a-vis Israel's negative response, like "a gradual freeze on normalization measures...as punishment for Israel." But the opposite was done, he says, adding that the Egyptian government "is publicly giving the Zionists one reward after another". He refers here to the joint projects involving the two countries and the Israeli announcement that Egypt has agreed to sell it its natural gas.

Husayn believes that the "political leadership is not bothered by the matter to the extent of creating a crisis with Israel, not only because it is always preoccupied with creating crises with any Arab or Islamic state (right now Sudan), but also because the lives of Egyptians in the 1990's do not concern it enough. Where then would it get the drive and will to bother itself with the souls of those who died in the 1950's and 1960's?" Citing various reports, Husayn points out that "our rulers" are indifferent to what happens to Egyptians every day abroad. He states that expatriates get "no protection" from their government. "Only when it comes to security reasons does the government follow expatriates like their shadow, only to hurt them in this case," he

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says. He cites different examples to illustrate how the government neglects expatriates and only remembers them when it is time "to charge them on their return with the accursed tax."

Husayn cites a saying about "the slaughtered cat," where the groom slaughters a cat before his bride on their wedding night to force her to fear him from day one. He explains that "the respectable state" raises havoc when one of its citizens is subjected to an assault abroad to force the world to respect it and reckon with it. Among others, Husayn cites the case of the Philippino maid, who was sentenced to death in the United Arab Emirates for killing her employer, to show how her government escalated the matter to protect its national reputation and internationalize her case.

In contrast, "our failing and humiliated government, which humiliates us at the same time, has failed to raise the POW's massacre to the level of the Philippino maid," he says.

Husayn continues: "let the earth open up and swallow us out of shame if we let those rule Egypt." But what do we expect from a government that kills its inmates...and feeds us poison, in meat at one time and in potatoes another, always letting the murders escape punishment while referring Islamists to military courts, he asks.

"You might say that we do not need all this statement to vote against the ruling party, since 90 percent of the real voters will elect any but the ruling party's candidates," he says, adding that the "real challenge" is to charge our energies to prevent rigging.

Palestinian Affairs

Minister: Accord Should Pacify Donor States

MM0210160095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din: "Al-Nashashibi Tells AL-HAYAH: Donor States' Position Improved Following Agreement on Self-Rule Expansion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — Palestinian Finance Minister Ahmad [as published] Zuhdi al-Nashashibi said in an interview with AL-HAYAH that, following the agreement reached on self-rule in the West Bank, he expects a marked improvement in the donor states' position toward the Palestinians, resulting in faster delivery of aid to the Palestinian areas.

Speaking at Orly airport during President 'Arafat's Wednesday stopover in Paris on his way to Washington, al-Nashashibi said: "We expect the donor states' position will now be better than before. It is clear that meetings which were postponed are now taking place following the signing of the agreement, and therefore there was a clear link between aid and the political situation, even though this is regrettable, because development should not be linked to such an issue. This, however, is the truth, even if they pretend to ignore it."

He predicted that "our meetings with the donor states will now be easier. I recall the 24 April Paris meeting in which we submitted and discussed the budget, which was the object of all participating states' appreciation. However, promises and pledges were not honored and did not result in commitments and transfers. In spite of that we were able to increase our revenues, first by developing the tax administration and second by using the unified tax code which helped greatly toward a more accurate assessment of our revenues from the added tax levied by Israel."

He added: "Because of this, our revenues improved in this context and we were somewhat able to cope with the crisis facing us. Having achieved the basic step on the path to peace and stability, we are now in a position to demand that the international community respond to our economic development needs and the needs of the National Authority related to the budget."

He went on: "We will attend successive meetings, including the donor states ministers' meeting tomorrow (Friday) [29 September] on the fringes of the signing ceremony in Washington; the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank, to be held between 7 and 11 October; and the consultative group's meetings in Paris on 18 October. In all these meetings we will submit a report on the budget, as of July and August, and its status by the end of the year, as well as the 1996 budget plan. We now want to cooperate with the international community, which has stated more than once that it hopes to reduce the budget deficit, caused by trade expenditure, and to submit development projects. This is what we will do. We will allocate specific funds to development projects within the capital expenditure [previous two words in English] budget. I can say that this will be given some support."

He indicated that the Palestinian side needed to reduce the budget deficit for July and August amounting to $35 million and that "the $92 million still to come from the amounts pledged at the Brussels conference should have been transferred to us. Nineteen million dollars should have been transferred to us on a monthly basis, as of May, but these funds were not transferred because they were linked to the development of the agreement with the Israeli side." Al-Nashashibi stressed that there is no other explanation than that this disbursement of funds was delayed for this purpose, and that the monthly meetings of the donor states committee were postponed

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pending the outcome of the political negotiations. Now that this excuse is no longer there, the true intentions will become clearer."

On the economic difficulties and problems that might result from this agreement, al-Nashashibi said: "More efforts must be made to finance the infrastructure, construction, airport, housing, agricultural, and tourist projects as well as the electric power and water treatment projects. These are priority projects and we expect rapid financing so that development can start in the West Bank and the [Gaza] Strip." He said that he hopes that there will be a precise timetable for transfers of funds dedicated to infrastructure projects so that they can be concentrated on better. He pointed out that one of the reasons behind the private sector's hesitation was that it was monitoring the behavior of the World Bank and the donor states. If these went ahead, it would follow, and if they hesitated, it would also do the same, because it takes its lead from them, and because all economic projects require the infrastructure to be in place.

On the U.S.-Israeli proposal regarding a Middle East regional development bank, al-Nashashibi said: "Opinions are still not clear on both the Arab and European side concerning this matter. I personally believe that for the Amman economic summit to achieve what is hoped and for the Arabs to offer a unified coordinated view, not only to face international coalitions, but also to establish an Arab market which takes into consideration these international variables, we must not attend the Amman summit without a unified Arab view and an understanding of national and regional projects." He expressed the view that "we should take maximum advantage of this international conference. We discussed this matter at the meeting of Arab finance and economy ministers. It was well supported and we hope to achieve better success. There is coordination at present between four states, but this must be extended further."

On Palestinian participation in the forthcoming Barcelona conference, al-Nashashibi said: "For us the Barcelona conference is very important and we will prepare for it well, because we believe that it provides a framework for Arab-European cooperation. We are Europe's main market and its effective partners. They are also the main market for our products, and therefore it is in our interest to achieve cooperation and coordination between us."

On the transfer of private funds by rich Palestinians to invest in Palestinian territories, he said: "They are not at an adequate level, but there is a de facto trend in that respect."

DFLP's Hawatimah on 'Catastrophe' of Oslo-2

MM0310153395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Sami 'Amarah in Moscow; date not given — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The interview began with a question on his assessment of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement and the reasons for the opposition and the media war in the Palestinian arena against what is now known as "Oslo-2."

[Hawatimah] Oslo-2 constitutes a massive climbdown from Oslo-1 under which the Israeli forces should withdraw from 60 percent of the territory leaving 40 percent under occupation, along with the crossings. Oslo-2 is a scandal compared to Oslo-1. All political sovereignty over all the West Bank, water, and security remain in the hands of the Israeli occupation. That is in addition to the complete surrender of greater Jerusalem where Judaization is actively under way, as is the annexation of Hebron to become Jerusalem-2 in the redeployment by the end of 1995, so the self-rule area will be only 3 percent of the area of the West Bank, to increase to 13 percent by the end of 1997, with 82 percent still under Israeli occupation by 1999, that is by the end of the self- rule period if a final settlement is achieved.

The Israeli governments, throughout that period, will continue to intensify the Judaization of Jerusalem, build colonialist settlements, expropriate land, and build circular roads to draw up Israel's new borders on the ground, and that is expected to include — in addition to greater Jerusalem — 43 percent of Palestinian territory. Furthermore, the 4 million [Palestinians] living in the diaspora in Arab and foreign countries will be completely crossed out.

I further say that if Oslo-2 proceeded according to the written text, the election of an executive council in the first quarter of 1996 would surely lead to the disappearance of the PLO, which is a coalition, and that executive council would, as the elected council of the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, become the body that matters not only to Israel and the United States but also to numerous Arab states and the world. It would become the alternative to the PLO which is a coalition representing the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory and representing their unity and legitimate national rights according to the UN resolutions as well as their right to end the occupation, dismantle the settlements, determine their own future, build an independent state, and solve

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the refugee problem. I therefore say again that Oslo-2 is a catastrophe compared to Oslo-1. Between now and 1999 the occupied territories and the surrounding areas will witness more trouble, anxiety, tension, and lack of security and stability, like what happened after Oslo-1 when the number of Palestinian and Israeli victims was more than twice what it was in the same period preceding Oslo-1.

Under Oslo-2 the simplest democratic rules were overlooked. The agreement was concluded behind the backs of the Palestinian people and their consultative and executive institutions. The best evidence of that is the real attitudes and positions of the PLO Executive Committee members. Nine members announced from Amman that they are against Oslo-2. They represent the factions which comprise the PLO, such as Faruq Qaddumi (Fatah), Taysir Khalid (the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP]), Sulayman al-Najjab (the People's Party), 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh (the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP]), Mahmud Isma'il (Arab Liberation Front), and some independent figures such as Shafiq al-Hut, 'Abdallah Hurani, Mahmud Darwish, and Bishop Iliya Khuri. Those who met in Tunis in response to brother Yasir 'Arafat's appeal were nine, including two who said that they were against the Oslo-2 agreement, namely Samir Ghawshah [(Palestinian Popular] Struggle Front) and 'Ali Ishaq (Palestine Liberation Front).

This clearly shows that representatives of all the factions of which the PLO consists have announced that they do not favor Oslo-2. That is in addition to other independent figures. It leaves only seven who support Oslo-2 out of the executive committee's 18 members. They represent the wing headed by brother Yasir 'Arafat (Abu-'Ammar) and, with him, Mahmud 'Abbas. The rest are independent figures who represent themselves. That is the fact of the matter.

['Amarah] The slogan "revolution until victory" has, as a result of international changes at regional and world levels, turned into "something is better than nothing." What, in your view, can the PLO do in the face of these new developments?

[Hawatimah] More than one option was proposed and was possible in the midst of the resounding regional and international developments since 1990 before Madrid and Oslo. On the eve of the Madrid conference our Palestine National Council [PNC] met and we crystallized our plan for the peace process in the negotiation context. And the same situation prevailed in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon — that is, negotiation in a single integrated phase on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the "land for peace" principle and the search for a solution to the problem of the refugees in accordance with UN Resolution 194. Our only condition was that the settlements should stop, but after one month or a little more than one month Yasir 'Arafat, under U.S.-Israeli pressures, violated the PNC resolutions and went alone to Madrid in a different negotiating context from the one pursued by Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Despite that, the Madrid-Washington negotiation process showed that there was still a possibility of negotiations on the basis of the two Security Council resolutions and through the negotiating team with representatives from the occupied territory. After every session that team was questioned by the masses of the occupied territory when the team returned there. It stood fast for 13 rounds and there was much coordination between that team, in the context of the PLO, and Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. But, in the face of U.S. pressures, 'Arafat retreated and could not stand fast in that five- sided framework. So he retreated in the direction of Oslo. Oslo was done behind the backs of the Palestinian people, all the PLO institutions, and the Washington negotiating team headed by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

The journey to Oslo — and we should go back to Mahmud 'Abbas' book "The Road to Oslo" — was made on the basis of a decision by three Fatah Central Committee members, namely 'Arafat, Mahmud 'Abbas, and Ahmad Quray', without the knowledge of 14 other Fatah Central Committee members and without the knowledge of the other factions which comprise the PLO coalition.

['Amarah] Perhaps secrecy was required.

[Hawatimah] I agree that secrecy is necessary but that should not also apply to the legitimate bodies which make the decisions in the Palestinian movement. When secrecy becomes the name of a small conspiracy by three Fatah Central Committee members without the knowledge of the majority of that committee and without the knowledge of the PLO Executive Committee which is a coalition of political parties and figures, that is no longer just a matter of secrecy. The Israeli Government went to Oslo but everything that went on there was discussed by that Israeli Government even though it maintained secrecy, but that was in the context of the elected legitimate body which is recognized in Israel and which has a majority in the Israeli Knesset.

I repeat that there could have been another option, and I say now that we can propose a new option that would be widely accepted in the Palestinian movement, the PLO coalition, and the vast majority of the Palestinian factions and political parties, and also by many in Fatah itself, headed by Faruq Qaddumi, and by the Palestinian people.

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['Amarah] I am not trying to defend 'Arafat or the agreement but the fact is that the consensus is that the agreement is a step toward building the state. President 'Arafat confirms that.

[Hawatimah] It is not a question of what brother Yasir 'Arafat does or thinks but of a situation ruled by one individual without regard for the people and the forces which constitute the main current. This is an age of democracy and pluralism. That is what the United States advocates on a global scale and what it practices itself, just as Israel does, namely going back to the country's legitimate institutions.

The problem is that Yasir 'Arafat has turned his back on the Palestinian people and the PLO's legislative and executive institutions, putting himself in a weak position; the United States and Israel are surely aware of this, and because of it they put pressure on him to make more and more concessions.

Let us look at the experiments of other small nations, such as South Africa, which achieves more when it has internal unity and when it coordinates with neighbors. When the white government of South Africa tried to turn the black areas into Bantustans as Israel has done under Oslo-2 which turns the six cities into isolated Bantustans, the people of South Africa rose under the leadership of Nelson Mandela rejecting all that and demanding a just and democratic solution.

That occurred despite tremendous U.S. pressure. We remember that when Mandela held a joint press conference in Washington with George Bush, the latter made some conditions such as suspension of armed action but Mandela rejected all the U.S. conditions.

Now 'Arafat might think that he has taken a step that would be followed by other steps but Israel is now Judaizing Arab East Jerusalem and changing the demographic structure of the city. By 1999 Israel will have completed its projects for the Judaization of all Jerusalem.

['Amarah] Does that mean that you are still in favor of a return to armed struggle?

[Hawatimah] All forms of struggle must remain open. The nature of the phase will determine which form will prevail. We are in a phase that is an extension of the Palestinian popular intifadah, one of broad popular opposition to occupation, settlements, and partial deals that do not take us any nearer to comprehensive peace but rather take us further away from it. The proof is that in 1999 we will find ourselves faced with a new map based on what is on the ground geographically and demographically. That is why the forms of struggle will be dictated by developments.

Commentary Highlights Importance of Taba Accord

JN2909140295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0617 GMT 29 Sep 95

[Station commentary by Yusuf al-Qazzaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is the most important event on the Palestinian, Arab, regional, and international levels. It is the signing of the agreement on expanding the areas of the Palestinian National Authority. This means new areas of freedom for our land, the land of the fathers and grandfathers. These areas will join the areas of freedom in Gaza and Jericho so that this land can receive the good news of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The state of Israel will be adjacent to the Palestinian state. Israel has now met the conditions of being a Middle Eastern state amid the Arab environment, living in peace. Any Israeli will be able to tour any Arab country, from the Gulf to the ocean, as long as long a Palestinian state will be established. Let it be clear to every Palestinian citizen that what we have gained through the Taba agreement—in terms of foundations for the coming Palestinian state, on which our president and our national symbol, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has signed, along with Mr. Rabin, President Clinton, the Jordanian monarch, President Mubarak, and others—this Palestinian achievement which guides us to our coming state constitutes our solar system which will illuminate to us the horizons and spaces of action which will always be in the interest of our people to enable them to conduct the legislative elections and to achieve democracy on this sacred land where many prophets lived. This is also to continue the process of building this homeland, whose people have suffered from many tragedies, but who are also full of hope to catch up with modern life.

Let us watch the performance of our national institutions, the existing ones and those which will be established, so as to strike with an iron fist on the hands of the violators, saboteurs, exploiters, and corrupters, and to eradicate them from the environment of work and production. Let us safeguard peace and security in the homeland of peace, our national Palestinian security, our citizens' security, and our institutions' security. We are responsible for our Palestinian security. Our Palestinian authority will not allow tampering with this security or the security of our neighbors, whether they are Arabs or Israelis. Every Palestinian in the current and future areas of freedom has been, is still, and will continue

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to be concerned for developing the Arab dimension in the Palestinian character. This does not mean that any Palestinian be persecuted by some Arab brothers. We do not want to reopen the file of Palestinian wounds which were caused by some whom we call brothers. We can understand the Israeli expulsion of the sons of our Palestinian people at the stage of bloody conflict. However, we cannot understand the expulsion of Palestinians by Libya's primitive Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The Palestinians built Libya with the force of their education, knowledge, and production. Our Palestinian people will not forgive those who have wronged them, will not forgive relatives, and will not forgive those who have harmed them. At the same time, they will not forget the Egyptian, Jordanian, Tunisian, Moroccan, and Saudi support for them.

We the Palestinians have held the reins of our national options. We are at the threshold of freedom, and at the beginning of the establishment of the state of freedom, democracy, pluralism, and the building of the new Palestinian citizen who is prepared for a new life. We will not relinquish our Palestinian options, because they are the options of the Palestinian majority. We are waiting for our female and male prisoners, our beloved ones, to be among us and with us. We are waiting for our prisoners following the first step outside their cells. They constitute the struggler popular sector. Let them get ready to participate in the process of building their institutions and homeland with all Palestinian citizens. We are waiting for the Israeli withdrawal and the halting of the Israeli army's havoc against our children in Hebron, al-Duhayshah, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Janin, Tulkarm, and in any village or camp. We are waiting for Israel to stop contradicting itself by declaring peace, while instigating bloody confrontations with our sons. This happens every day. The days of occupation will end soon, God willing. This is why we say: Our nascent Palestinian state is our solar system, our light toward a new dawn and a new life, toward a just and lasting peace on the land of peace.

Commentary Views 'Arafat's 'Catastrophic Policy'

MM0310123795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 17

[Article by Edward Said: "Crop of the Negotiations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few weeks ago a senior official at the U.S. State Department met with a small group of Lebanese ministers and prominent journalists. He is said to have encouraged them to begin preparing files for direct negotiations with the Israelis. He is reported to have said: "Whatever you do, avoid doing what the Palestinians are doing." When asked to be more specific about what he had against the attitude of the Palestinian negotiators, he spoke to them at length about tragicomic mistakes and unforgivable negligence. The Palestinian negotiators have no accurate maps of their own and, unlike the Israeli negotiators, have no detailed and specific information with facts and figures. So, without all that and without a clear and principled commitment, the Palestinian negotiators (who have to refer back to 'Arafat on every minor or major point) became an easy victim to all kinds of American and Israeli pressures. So we find that the Palestinians got a number of powers pertaining to running municipal councils within bantustans (ethnic enclaves) controlled by Israel, whereas Israel got an official Palestinian recognition of its occupation of Palestinian territory which continues in more organized and economical ways.

These results refute any claim by the Palestinian Authority [PA] and its defenders that the real battle with the Israelis has now shifted to the negotiating table. Since Oslo, we have not seen any real negotiations. What we have seen are feeble negotiations which we engage in without preparation, seriousness, or principle, ending with complete capitulation by 'Arafat and his team to the Israeli demands.

Take, for instance, the recent agreement on redeployment in the West Bank initialed in Taba. Let us put aside the fact that it came months after the dates agreed in Oslo. That procrastination was just one way of keeping 'Arafat and his negotiating team at Israel's mercy and of exposing them as weak subordinates, as Israel always wants its Palestinian partners to be. But the agreement itself includes more postponements of Israeli Army redeployment which, according to the agreement, will be in stages every six months so that the process will take no less than two years. Furthermore, 62 new Israeli military bases will be created in the West Bank and the Israeli forces which will withdraw from the main towns in the West Bank (with the exception of Hebron) will maintain full control of the entry and exit points to these towns in addition to control of the West Bank roads. The agreement ends Israel's responsibility for over 400 villages, but Israel intends to keep control of the villages adjacent to the "green line" with the aim of annexing them later on. Israel will never give up one inch of East Jerusalem. The proof is that it is continuously threatening to close down the Palestinian institutions there while at the same time "negotiating" with the PLO on the city's future. The new road system in the West Bank will link all the settlements so that it will be impossible for the Palestinians to rule all their territories. The West Bank will also be divided into chains of cantons, which I prefer to call bantustans or ethnic enclaves, separated by Israeli roads and settlements. And finally, Israel will

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keep its control in the West Bank of all the territories it considers to be military or state territories (which constitute 50 percent of the entire area.) So we find that, as a result of the Palestinian tactical negotiating genius, we have fulfilled Israel's Zionist dream of Palestinian self-rule over the people (who require many services) but not the territory. The total area of the territories that will come under the PA's self-rule (Israel will have sovereignty) which will assume responsibility for 1 million Palestinians is equal to 5 percent (whereas 140,000 Israeli settlers will have about 8 percent of the West Bank's territory). If we add Gaza (where the Israelis control 40 percent of the territory), the aggregate area of the self-rule territory reaches 18 percent.

That fabricated agreement is a real catastrophe and I believe that, in the light of these results, it is perfectly legitimate to say that no negotiations at all and no agreement at all would have been better than what has been achieved so far. It seems that the main outcome for the Palestinians is that "Oslo-2" gives the PA the symbols and appearances of government devoid of any reality. Thus 'Arafat and his aides rule over a kingdom of illusions while Israel keeps control. It could, if it wished, close any township in the West Bank under the new agreement, as happened in Jericho in the last days of last August and as the case is now in Gaza. Commercial traffic between Gaza and the self- rule areas will remain under Israel's control. A truck carrying tomatoes from Gaza to Nabulus will have to stop at the border and unload its cargo into an Israeli truck and then reload that on a Palestinian truck when it enters Nabulus. That takes three days, during which the goods will be damaged, resulting in high costs which will prevent such commercial exchanges (as it would be cheaper, in this case, to import tomatoes from Spain). The main idea, of course, is that Israel controls the Palestinian economy in a most humiliating manner. Although the disagreement over the number of members (of the legislative council) to be elected next year has now been resolved (82 members), it is certain that Israel will maintain its control through the right to veto any legislation passed by that council, which will have no authority or existence in East Jerusalem. Under the agreement, 'Arafat gets the right to hold special elections for his position to ensure his separate authority. He also secures for himself the privilege of having the title "president and leader," although the Israelis are insisting that the "president and leader" should appoint a deputy for himself. He seems to be refusing to do so and insisting that anyone below him should be identified as "spokesman" only.

Once during the negotiations 'Arafat did one of his usual theatricals. He angrily stormed out of the negotiating chamber shouting: "We are not their slaves." While the entire negotiations were threatened with suspension, 'Arafat received a telephone call from Dennis Ross, who is said to have threatened that if the agreement was not signed immediately, the $100 million in U.S. aid would not reach him. So 'Arafat returned to the negotiating table to sign the same humiliating agreement whose terms he had rejected moments earlier.

That agreement signed by 'Arafat in Taba leaves the main issues pending and unresolved, including the fate of miserable Hebron which has been systematically punished since February 1994, that is since the moment it had the honor of being the scene of a barbaric massacre by an Israeli settler, by all means ranging from curfews to the demolition of homes, to detentions, and to acts of murder while the settlers continued their same stupid, provocative, and hostile presence. Expropriation of land continues and the number of settlements is increasing, yet nothing is said about any form of compensation. In fact, regrettably, 'Arafat is cooperating with Shin Bet and the settlers in pursuing and arresting those "opposed to the peace process," while Israel continues to occupy more of his people's territory. Furthermore, Israel still holds over 5,000 Palestinian detainees and unilaterally controls the water (even though it has agreed in principle that the Palestinians should get more water) and, of course, continues its military occupation. Rabin's plan of an alternative to direct control — that is the presence of Israeli forces in the major centers of the West Bank — is one of indirect control, meaning the deployment of the Israeli forces outside the cities. Shim'on Peres, on whom some Palestinian leaders still pin hopes, appears to be obstinate when it comes to the issues of Israeli rule and Israeli settlements. In an interview with the German magazine DER SPIEGEL on 5 March Rabin [as published] rejected the claim that the settlements were an obstacle in the way of peace. According to him, the main issue is that of finding a formula that would ensure "harmony between the settlers and the Palestinians." When his interviewer said that "it is inconceivable that all the settlers now in the West Bank would remain in place after the completion of the peace process," Peres replied: "That is our view. I believe that it is conceivable."

If that is the only kind of peace that the PA under 'Arafat's leadership can get, then let us call a spade a spade: It is untrammeled capitulation without any acceptable logic. Even if we accept the assumption that there was no alternative to the Oslo agreement, what happened later on can only be described as a great shame and a complete humiliation by the Israelis of 'Arafat and the team of appeasers around him.

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The other side of the coin is that miserable way in which the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] rules. When 'Arafat met with his Executive Committee in Tunis some weeks ago to discuss the intended agreement, there were no serious discussions, in fact there was no quorum. One would expect such an occasion to warrant serious and detailed discussions on our condition as a people and the path we are traveling, but that occasion passed without any such thing, notably because "the president" wanted to maintain his own style of rule, putting everything in the hands of one man.

What is intolerable in all this is that 'Arafat played on the worst human instinct in his people instead of addressing the best. On the one hand he promotes the feeling among many Palestinians that they would personally benefit if they attached themselves to the bureaucratic, corrupt, and repressive regime of the "Authority" and, on the other, that Authority uses intimidation which makes some remain silent and nonchalant. The beatings, torture, closure of newspapers, and indiscriminate detentions have created an atmosphere of fear and apathy.

I often find it difficult to believe that all this is happening to people who struggled for so long with such firmness and determination against the British and the Zionists, or to believe that these people have lost their ability to face the numerous calamities afflicting them now as a result of the policies of their leadership, which does not care in the slightest about anything other than the wretched continuation in power. The PNA's disregard for the future of the Palestinians, the "thuggery" of those around it, and its bureaucratic, inefficient army are, in my view, worse than its collusion with the Israelis.

The Palestinians now have a propaganda organ which, despite its weakness, matches any similar organ in the Arab world. Finally, after long years of suffering Arab and Israeli repression, they now have gained the right to their own repressive regime. Under the PNA there is no law, no clear procedural measures, and no real freedoms and democratic rights. Take, for instance, the way the Palestinian women (the heart of the intifadah) have been treated. We have not heard of any worthy responsibilities given to women in the PNA institutions, and their needs and ambitions do not seem to be on 'Arafat's agenda. In fact, there are some indications that their conditions are getting worse. Cases in which young girls are married off early, are murdered to preserve their "honor," or are forced back to the kitchen or into the fields to shoulder men's burdens are increasing.

One constant feature of the mentality of the PA is its complete failure to answer criticism or enter into a serious dialogue with its critics, whose number increases as the situation deteriorates. The only answer I get for my repeated criticism of the peace process is that I live in New York and not in Gaza and that the men and the leaders and subordinates of the "Authority" know the problems better than those living abroad, as if being in Gaza were a guarantee of telling the truth or knowing the real situation, and as if the majority of the Palestinian people who have been overlooked by the current peace process were not living in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and other places outside Palestine.

'Arafat and his advisers are living in complete isolation from their people and do not really believe in the principle of the right to question or the right to free, democratic debate. What is even worse than that is that 'Arafat's catastrophic policy of giving in to the Israelis and signing agreements with the occupation containing all kinds of shackles restricting the movement of his people has in fact mortgaged their future with the very same people who were the cause of their calamity and who are still persecuting them to this day. It is as if 'Arafat, in a hurry to make personal gains and symbols for his "authority," is sacrificing the future of his people, leaving to the future generations the task of finding a way out of this plight that he has brought on them. How shortsighted and how irresponsible!

A final word to 'Arafat supporters who keep saying that we have no other option: Is the Syrian option of accepting the idea of peace and negotiations while insisting on the principles and national priorities not another option?

Jihadi Groups View Accord as 'Another Sad Day'

LD2809211495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finally, after months of delay in talks between the leaders of Tel Aviv and PLO on the implementation of the second phase of the self-rule, today, Thursday September 20th, another agreement on the expansion of [the] self-rule plan will be signed in the White House.

Although political hue and cry by [the] White House and Tel Aviv is aimed at introducing the signing of the Gaza-Ariha [Gaza-Jericho] agreement as a landmark in the trend of compromise, widescale protests on the West Bank and the Palestinian refugee camps, however, speak of the depth of the concern felt by the Palestinian nation.

The ten Palestinian groups who oppose the compromise, along with some other Arab states, view the signing of another compromise agreement as a clear conspiracy to the ideals of Palestinian nation and also ignore the content of the first Gaza-Ariha agreement [sentence as heard].

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Based on September 13th treaty, the Zionist regime army should have withdrawn from the West Bank six months after the agreement in 1994. Now, after 16 months of delay, [the] Zionist regime has agreed to sign the agreement with the PLO that promises no withdrawal from the West Bank, nor does it adhere to the first Gaza-Ariha compromise.

According to Palestinian leaders who oppose compromise with Israel, what has actually happened is another major retreat by Mr Yasir 'Arafat. This means that based on the second phase of the compromise agreement 70 percent of lands on the West Bank and 80 percent of water resources in that area will be given to the Zionist regime. So only 18 percent of the West Bank territory will come under the so-called self-rule system, the authority of which only includes running the civil, administrative, and educational affairs. Undoubtedly, ever since the signing of the Gaza-Ariha agreement, the Zionist regime had [the] intention of legitimizing its rule over Gaza and Ariha by offering the insignificant self-rule plan. Today the passage of time indicates clearly the bitter facts behind the compromise that not only [the] West Bank and Gaza Strip are sealed-off areas, but a very dim future is expected for the continuation of such compromise. It is also obvious that the achievements of the agreement on the expansion of self-rule not only mean trampling of Palestinians' rights, but there are also tens of questions which will be left unanswered. Therefore, the jihadi groups of Palestine regard the celebrations in the White House as another sad day for the oppressed Palestinian nation. So the deepening of differences in the Arab and Muslim world and also in Palestine is naturally quite understandable.

Ex-PLO Spokesman Views Palestinian Situation

AU0210165295 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 2 Oct 95 pp 166-167

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokesman for the PLO delegation during peace talks and currently "professor of English literature," by Juergen Hogerefe and Romain Leick in Ramallah; date not given: "A Little Pregnant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mrs. 'Ashrawi, for years you were the voice of the Palestinians, the best known and most dedicated spokesman of your people. Does the accord that was recently signed mark a fulfillment of your dreams?

['Ashrawi] The peace process can still go two ways, either to the foundation of a Palestinian state or to disaster. We are dependent on the mercy of the Israelis. They accelerate or slow down the process, according to their mood. If something happens that they do not like, they can put a stop to it.

[DER SPIEGEL] But Israel has made great concessions. For the first time in 30 years, the occupying power is surrendering significant territories.

['Ashrawi] Indeed, the agreement is a major step forward, but there will still be trouble. The Israelis are still occupying major parts of the country. They control major roads and bridges and are behaving as if all of Jerusalem belongs to them. Instead of receiving a single whole territory, we are receiving mere fragments.

[DER SPIEGEL] Have you expressed your misgivings to 'Arafat?

['Ashrawi] He listens to me, but whether he obeys me is a different matter altogether. We have a close relationship based on mutual respect. I am very frank with him, which he knows, and I never mix personal matters with political ones.

[DER SPIEGEL] So what is your greatest concern?

['Ashrawi] We must cure the trauma of occupation from which all Palestinians are suffering. It is not enough to establish a political entity that is based only on fighting and military authority. The way I see it, a state must also have the rule of law, functioning institutions, a civil society, a respect for pluralism, and tolerance.

[DER SPIEGEL] The situation in this regard is bad almost throughout the Arab world. According to the autonomy agreement, parliamentary and presidential elections are to take place soon. 'Arafat will then become answerable to an elected council. Is that what he really wants?

['Ashrawi] A transformation from revolutionary to statesman is difficult. A revolutionary survives through mistrust, secret activities, maneuverability, and a thirst for power. Those are not necessarily qualities that mark a statesman. Life-long habits have to be changed. That does not happen overnight. The worst possible thing would be for a revolutionary attitude to engulf the new state. One cannot survive the future if one is still attached to patterns of conduct of the past.

[DER SPIEGEL] Perhaps it would help if 'Arafat had a democratic challenger. Will he have a competing presidential candidate in the envisaged presidential elections?

['Ashrawi] I hope there will be many candidates. The Palestinians are not a monolithic bloc. But of course I believe 'Arafat will win.

[DER SPIEGEL] Would anyone dare compete with the great chairman?

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['Ashrawi] If opponents and competitors were to be excluded, that would not only be undemocratic, it would also spawn violence.

[DER SPIEGEL] During the Intifadah, the Palestinians opposed the Israeli occupiers en masse. But now the Palestinians are fighting each other. 'Arafat's police are firing on civilians, and Hamas has dubbed 'Arafat a traitor. What do you feel when Palestinians torture or kill each other?

['Ashrawi] That is a very painful thing to witness. I think everyone has the right to represent his opinion and position, but without force. That also applies to Hamas. Conversely, the PLO cannot treat Hamas like as enemy. Hamas might be hostile to the Israelis, but it is also a part of the Palestinian reality.

[DER SPIEGEL] But must terrorism not be combated with all resources?

['Ashrawi] That is part of the problem, unfortunately. The Palestinian autonomous authority has been forced to adopt Israeli priorities. The tragic dilemma is that 'Arafat feels compelled to violate Palestinian rights so that Israel recognizes the Palestinian authority as a law-enforcement body. We must decide which side we are on. Are we going to surrender to the will of the Israelis and Americans, or are we committed to the Palestinian cause? The domestic recognition of our cause is fading to the same extent as foreign recognition is growing. The longing for protection against terror is now being used in order to sweep aside democratic movements.

[DER SPIEGEL] But surely you are not suggesting that the Israelis are stopping the Palestinians from establishing democracy.

['Ashrawi] The United States and Israel are the only countries that approved the appointment of our fully undemocratic state security tribunal. It is extremely dangerous to trick the Palestinian government and violate the rights of one's own people. The Israelis do not care about the democratic rights of the Palestinians. They would rather have a strong, authoritarian, reliable partner who can safeguard their security. That is the wrong approach.

[DER SPIEGEL] 'Arafat and Rabin have chained themselves together, they are doomed to success. Why have you no greater understanding for the Israeli prime minister's dilemmas? He, too, is forced to combat radical opponents.

['Ashrawi] Rabin is behaving like a general. He is leading the peace talks like a military campaign.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you not trust him?

['Ashrawi] I believe he wants peace, but according to his own terms. For me, the existence of a democratic Palestinian state is one of the prerequisites for peace and stability. The Israelis think that the more they can control, dictate, and intervene, the better it is for them. But that is wrong. One cannot have a little peace, just like one cannot be a little pregnant.

[DER SPIEGEL] Regardless of all the altercations, is peace not irreversible? Or could a right-wing government in Jerusalem put an end to it?

['Ashrawi] No one can halt this process. One can only try to slow it down.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you consider it possible that Israeli settlers will live in a sovereign Palestine as a minority with special rights?

['Ashrawi] If someone wants to become a citizen of Palestine and recognizes its laws, he is welcome to do so, whether he is a Jew, Muslim, or Christian. But I will never accept this artificial network of settlements that has been laid upon Palestine. As long as settlers sit as a unified group on stolen territory behind a fence, they will remain political monsters who think they can act like God and imagine they have the power of life or death over the Palestinians.

[DER SPIEGEL] In other words, 140,000 Jews will have to disappear from the West Bank?

['Ashrawi] We know that many Israelis have moved to the West Bank for economic reasons, because apartments are cheaper here. They will not want to live under Palestinian rule in any case. But every single Jew who wants to live in Palestine for religious reasons will be able to enjoy our protection.

Committees Prepare for Police Deployment, Elections

TA0210174895 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by On Levi and Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian committees have started operating in several towns in the West Bank in order to pave the way for the Palestinian police units that will enter the area following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment.

These "popular committees" will launch an information campaign among the civilian population prior to the arrival of the Palestinian Authority [PA] officials. The committees are also preparing sites for the festive welcoming ceremonies planned for the policemen as well as for the Palestinian prisoners slated to be released.

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There are also military committees attached to the PA. These committees are made up of local representatives, mainly from Fatah, as well as police officials. The military committees will help the Palestinian police deploy in IDF installations and also coordinate between the police and civilian institutions.

Security officers and Palestinian policemen have already toured the West Bank and formulated plans for the deployment of PA forces. Contacts between PA and IDF representatives on the latter's withdrawal from Janin are due to begin soon.

The Palestinians intend to deploy about 12,000 policemen in the West Bank. Approximately 6,000 PLO members will enter the West Bank from Arab countries: Of these, 5,000 will belong to the Palestinian Liberation Army, and another 1,000 will come from the organization's political and administrative personnel. Approximately 1,000 Palestinian policemen will deploy in Janin, which is scheduled to be the first city from which the IDF will withdraw. These forces will include West Bank residents who have recently completed military and police training in Jericho. Palestinian sources reported that for the time being, the IDF bases in Janin show no signs of redeployment activity, although preparations are under way to prepare suitable premises for the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee, which will situate its offices in the area of al-Shuhada', approximately 5 km south of Janin.

At the same time, the Palestinians have started accelerating the preparations for the elections to the autonomy council. In various West Bank cities, election offices, which were established several months ago, have begun training courses for election workers. The graduates will prepare the voters register and explain election procedures to the voters. Most of the supervisors at the ballot boxes will be teachers. The election offices are supposed to update the voters register. These offices are expected to receive the final version of the Palestinian election law, which will regulate their activity, soon. [passage omitted]

'Tangible Improvement' in PA-Hamas Relations

MM0310112595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab: "'Arafat Urges Clinton To Secure Abu-Marzuq's Release"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — An authoritative Palestinian source has revealed that, while he was in Washington to sign the Oslo-2 agreement, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to secure the release of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, who has been detained in the United States since July. The source did not say whether Clinton made any conclusive promises to 'Arafat that he would secure Abu-Marzuq's release. However, the conclusions of the Palestinian officials who accompanied the Palestinian president during his recent U.S. visit indicate that 'Arafat received assurances that the Hamas official would not be handed over to Israel.

'Arafat had officially requested of the U.S. consul in Israel, who is normally responsible for coordination between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA] and the U.S. Administration, that Washington release Abu-Marzuq and not hand him over to the Israeli authorities. But 'Arafat received no specific reply concerning this issue.

Relations between the PNA and Hamas have witnessed a tangible improvement recently, to the point where some people now expect 'Arafat to hasten to release all members and officials of this movement and of the Islamic Jihad movement held in Palestinian jails, including Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar.

According to what a senior PNA official said to AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT, three Hamas leaders in Gaza — namely Isma'il Haniyah, Khalid al-Hindi, and Sa'id al-Namruti — were expected to go to Khartoum to meet with their colleagues abroad to discuss the issue of reconciliation with the PNA and to adopt a final position on the Palestinian elections.

But it seems that the visit was postponed because Hamas leaders abroad have not yet agreed on the issues to be settled between their movement and the PNA.

There is a prevalent belief among those following Palestinian affairs that Hamas has begun to move toward flexibility and moderation, now that it has ascertained that the peace process has become a reality and that the PNA is determined to firmly establish itself in the self-rule areas. And also because it has realized that the Muslim Brotherhood group is having a difficult time, and the trials of some of that group's leaders in Egypt are an indication of what will happen to it later in more than one state.

Hamas fears that it may one day have to negotiate with the PNA from the position of a subordinate and weak party in the event of a split in the Muslim Brotherhood group in Jordan and intensified pressure on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. This is why over recent months it has abandoned its previous hard line and adopted a flexible position.

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PFLP-GC Mourns Death of Lebanon Attack Leader

JN0310194895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has mourned with our Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations Hero Martyr Yunus al-'A'idi, who was martyred on 1 October while leading a combat patrol unit attack against an enemy armored convoy in southern Lebanon.

Hero Martyr Husayn al-'A'idi was born in the al-Yarmuk Camp, south of Damascus, in 1962. He was brought up in a militant Palestinian family. He completed his education and joined the PFLP- GC in 1981. He passed several military and organizational courses and excelled in all these courses. He was assigned several patriotic and national tasks and became assistant to the commander of the gliders unit and assistant to the commander of the fedayeen units of the western sector of Lebanon. He commandeered several surveillance and combat missions against the enemy and its agents. He is married with two daughters.

It should be noted that on the morning of 1 October, one of the storm units belonging the PFLP-GC attacked a mechanized enemy convoy composed of several tanks and half-tracked vehicles in the al- Shaqif-Arnun area in the occupied part of southern Lebanon. Our units opened missile and machine gun fire and destroyed one enemy Merkava tank.

The PFLP-GC spokesman said that the enemy ranks were thrown into confusion, resulting in further casualties in enemy ranks.

Hero Husayn Y us al-'A'idi was martyred in the heroic operation. The other members of the group returned safely to base.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Editorial on 'Israeli Greed, Arab Humiliation'

MM2909130995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Many Happy Returns of the Oslo Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not believe that the Oslo-B agreement which will be signed this morning in the White House deserves all those fabricated ceremonies. The few positive points in favor of the Palestinian people do not inspire rejoicing. And its chances of being implemented will not be better than those of previous agreements, such as the Cairo agreement, whose clauses have not yet seen the light of day.

The Israeli leadership has accustomed us to its policy of implementing the stipulations that are in its interests. As for those that conflict with these interests, it tends to evade them. Its eternal excuse is always security considerations, which should be given precedence over anything else.

The Oslo-B agreement is full of security minefields, for both the Israeli Government and the Palestinian National Authority. It is the real test for an eroded peace process that is rapidly losing its credibility as a result of Israeli greed and Arab humiliation.

Ruling the Gaza Strip, whose area does not exceed 360 square km and has a population of 1 million Palestinians most of whom are deprived refugees with basic living needs, is different from ruling an advanced society in the West Bank. Besides, dealing with 4,000 settlers in the Gaza Strip is different from dealing with 150,000 in the West Bank, which they consider part of Israel's territory.

What we want to say is that the mechanisms used to run the Gaza Strip, and the PLO in Tunis and Beirut before, might not be suitable for running the West Bank. The same thing applies to the [Palestinian Authority's] performance, officials, and ministers.

While we agree that all criticisms of the agreement are correct and logical, the claim that the temple should be pulled down and the Palestinians returned to the terrible situation that existed before the Oslo agreement is like betting on a mirage.

Since the Palestinians are treated as human rejects whom the "progressive" and "liberal" regimes are throwing out into the open in "dumps" near their borders, any agreement with Israel to return these rejects or part of them to their land is better for the Palestinians and the Arab states.

After what we have read and heard about what is happening to the Palestinians on the Egyptian-Libyan border and at world airports and seaports, especially as Lebanon has closed its borders to anyone holding its passport, we offer our profound apologies to Lebanese Minister Nicholas Fattush, because he was a brave man who had the courage to say the truth no other Arab officials, especially the revolutionaries in more than one Arab capital, dared to say.

Minister Fattush was courageous because he spoke on behalf of all and revealed the true feelings of many Arab politicians and leaders toward the Palestinian people and their cause. He should be given the credit for being the first to reveal the truth.

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When a country like Libya, to which God has given oil and an area of more than 1 million square km, fails to accommodate 20,000 Palestinians, most of whom have qualifications, and then casts out their children to the scorpions in the open, without any mercy or compassion, this can only be part of the conspiracy of continuing the pressure on the Palestinians which began following the second Gulf war, to get them to accept weak and capitulationist agreements like the Oslo agreement and the agreements arising from it.

Lebanon, which has naturalized 200,000 people over two months and looks for anyone — Arabs or Persians — to naturalize, cannot tolerate the same number from the Palestinians on the pretext of safeguarding the sectarian makeup, as though this makeup is still effective and important, or as though Lebanon is still Lebanon.

Let the leadership of the Jamahiriyah enjoy the expulsion of the Arabs, and of the Libyans later. Let Lebanon enjoy its new racism, which is no longer limited to the isolationists. And welcome to the Filipinos, Koreans, and Sri Lankans in the two countries and all the other Arab countries, since the homelands of Arabism can no longer accommodate their Arabs and have become public land for non-Arabs and non-Muslims.

We will watch the signing ceremony today without any emotions, because there is nothing in this nation to inspire rejoicing these days, now that the feelings have died or are about to die. And many happy returns of the Oslo agreement.

Editorial: Accord at Risk From Extremists

MS2909095495 London THE TIMES in English 29 Sep 95 p 13

[Report by Christopher Walker: "Extremists on Both Sides Pledge to Sabotage Deal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel was as bitterly divided as at any time since the creation of the state 47 years ago by yesterday's accord with the Palestinians, while Islamic extremists and ultra right-wing Jewish settlers were as one in their pledges to undermine it by violence.

An opinion poll published by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the biggest- selling Tel Aviv newspaper, found that 51 per cent of Israelis were in favour of extending Arab self-rule to the occupied West Bank and 47 per cent were opposed.

The split will be reflected in next year's general election, with the main right-wing opposition Likud Party vowing to annul the new pact if it returns to power.

The depth of resentment felt by the right-wing was demonstrated at a self-styled "alternative signing to the surrender ceremony in Washington" in which opposition Knesset members and other activists signed what they described as a "declaration of loyalty and commitment to the Land of Israel".

The document reflected the right's conviction that the West Bank, land they always insist on calling "Judea and Samaria", is biblical territory handed to Abraham and the Jews by God. The religious zeal involved has led Western security experts to surmise that half of the 140,000 West Bank settlers would resist any attempt to relocate them.

Benyamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader tipped by opinion polls as the next Israeli Prime Minister, called the new pact a "holiday gift package" that meant "adding six more terrorist safe havens to the already existing refuges in Gaza and Jericho, PLO control over a third of Israel's water supply, transferring responsibility for the safety of Israelis to no less than the PLO and the turning over to the PLO of responsibility for many Jewish holy sites."

More extreme and potentially dangerous for the stability of the Jewish State was the fury and threats emanating from militant settlers who gathered in the disputed West Bank city of Hebron to voice their determination to sabotage the deal. They said they would regard the arrival of armed Palestinian police as an "act of war" and would "respond accordingly".

Mohammad Halabi, a Hebron shopkeeper, said just before the settlers were about to begin their protest: "We can accept to live in peace with Jews, but not those murderers. These people have planted hatred between our two nations."

Last night, Israel sealed off both the West bank and the Gaza Strip after Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, declared a jihad (holy war) against what it called a "disgraceful sell-out".

Editorial: Radicals Must Join Peace Process

MS2909103395 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Sep 95 p 15

[Report by Anton La Guardia: "Autonomy Pact Puts Extremists on the Spot"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For two years, Palestinian and Israeli radicals tried to stop today's West Bank agreement through demonstrations, civil disobedience — and by killing. All to no avail. The question now is what the enemies of the peace process will try to do next.

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Islamic extremists responded to the peace process with the deadly new tactic of suicide bombings in Israel. But as autonomy is about to be extended to the whole West Bank, the Palestinian opposition is debating whether to continue the armed struggle, concentrate on politics, or try the "ballots and bullets" approach. Suicide bombings are not as widely supported by Palestinians as they were a year ago. When Yasir 'Arafat's security forces control the Palestinian cities in the West Bank, it could become harder for gunmen to operate freely.

Palestinian elections, expected at the beginning of next year, should help consolidate Mr 'Arafat's power and give further legitimacy to peaceful, step-by-step negotiations with Israel. Opposition factions now face the dilemma of participating in the elections and thereby recognising the detested autonomy agreement, or continuing their campaign of violence and risk losing their political base.

"The military struggle is a method, not the aim, and the method can change," said Husayn Abu-Kuwayk, head of the Islamic Labour Association, a group linked to Hamas, the main Islamic opposition group. "If the elections are truly legislative and allow parties to work freely, I believe the Islamic movement should participate." Ryad al-Malki, a Bir Zeit professor linked to the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said: "If we do not participate in the elections, we will be left 8 behind. History is very harsh on those that isolate themselves from events."

The West Bank agreement has been tailored to attract at least some of the radicals. It does not ban parties opposed to the autonomy agreement; it merely says that "racist" and "undemocratic" groups will be barred from running for office. With 82 seats, and with both legislative and executive powers, the council can be presented as a real Palestinian parliament.

Leaders of the Jewish settlement movement have long predicted that the autonomy agreement will lead to war. "This is going to be like a small Bosnia," said Yehiel Leiter, a settler spokesman. The arrival of Palestinian forces in the main Arab towns threatens to destroy the settlers' dream of creating a greater "Land of Israel". Hardliners have threatened to open fire on Palestinian policemen and some say they are even ready to fight "Jews who are not Jews". Israel's security services are worried that extremists may try to assassinate government ministers.

And there is always the lurking danger that Jewish extremists will seek to provoke Arabs into violence, or even emulate Baruch Goldstein, the settler who killed 29 Muslims while they prayed in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. But for the most part, mainstream settler leaders still want to appear respectable, at least to Israelis. They believe that their enterprise can survive only with the backing of the wider Israeli public, and with the strength of the Israeli state. "Some of the extremists say they can no longer stand still and want to set the country on fire," said Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on Israel's radical Right. "But there is also a strong pressure from the pragmatists. Their only hope is that the government will be defeated at the next elections, and the Likud party will suspend the peace process. They need restraint, and to stay away from the image of extremists. The question is what will those on the fringes do."

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, an architect of the settlers, "civil disobedience" movement, said: "I am not worried about the greater Land of Israel, but about Israel itself. It's a security problem for Israel in general. It's a small country and we will have a Palestinian army at our throats." He said settlers would start a campaign to bring forward Israel's general election, due in November next year. "It would be a disaster if the government were to come back to power."

Prof Sprinzak said: "Most Israelis seek the good life. They are not very interested in the Land of Israel. They care about security. A couple of Hamas suicide bombs before the election could make all the difference."

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Algeria

FFS Leader Calls For Election Boycott

LD0110162695 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1503 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On Sunday [1 October], the Algerian Socialist Forces Front [FFS] called for a boycott of the presidential elections which will take place on 16 November this year.

Its leader, Hocine Ait Ahmed, said that the "electoral farce" will not solve any problem. On the contrary, it will "seriously jeopardize the nation."

Last month, the "Rome parties," which include the FFS, urged Algerians not give their signatures in support of the declared candidates.

FLN Refuses To Call For Boycott of Elections

LD3009205095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the National Liberation Front [FLN] today, Saturday 30 September, refused to give its backing to the coming presidential election, but it did not call for a boycott of the election as demanded by its Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri. In a declaration by the central committee today, the FLN states that the election does not offer a solution to the Algerian crisis.

In other news, we have learned today that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has decided to send only six observers to Algeria for the presidential election, the first round of which is scheduled to be held next 16 November.

Five Qualify To Contest Presidential Elections

LD0210141195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Midnight tonight, 2 October, is the deadline for collecting signatures to stand in the presidential elections. Recent information available to the national radio validates the forecast that five figures will qualify to go beyond the phase of collecting signatures. These five are Messrs. Liamine Zeroual, Mahfoud Nahnah, Noureddine Boukrouh, Said Sadi, and Redha Malek.

It is said that Mr. Liamine Zeroual has exceeded the condition of the 75,000 signatures by a large margin. Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, candidate of the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS], has also succeeded in satisfying this condition before the deadline, a matter which the candidate himself affirmed during the television program "Signatures."

Noureddine Boukrouh, candidate of the Algerian Renewal Party [PRA], who faced some difficulties during the process of collecting signatures, has also succeeded in standing firm to continue his march in the presidential contest. [passage omitted]

According to the information we have received, Mr. Redha Malek of the the Republican National Alliance and Mr. Said Sadi of the Rally for Culture and Democracy have also completed the phase of collecting signatures with success.

Constitutional Council Prepares List of Candidates

LD0310131195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The process of collecting the signatures of candidates in the presidential elections, the first round of which is due to be held on 16 November, officially ended yesterday. The Constitutional Council is now examining the forms and ascertaining the identity of the signatories in accordance with the Elections Law.

In readiness for launching the elections campaign, which is due to begin on 22 October, the council will determine the list of candidates who are to stand in the first round of the presidential elections. According to the Elections Law, a candidate must obtain 75,000 signatures in at least 25 provinces, and 1,500 signatures in a chosen province.

National Elections Commission Issues Statement

LD0310102495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before the end of the period for collecting the signatures given to the candidates, the independent national commission on monitoring the presidential elections issued a statement yesterday. The following is its text: [passage omitted]

Concerning the complaints submitted by candidates, the national commission has received 90 complaints connected with negligence, shortcomings, or transgressions. The examination of the latter required investigations before the commission could call on state authorities to take the necessary measures at the earliest time for facilitating the organization of the elections. The first complaints were mainly connected with the difficulties related to the conditions of carrying out the process of endorsing the signatures. [passage omitted]

The independent national commission also held contacts with the observers of the international institutions, and a preparatory report, which is currently being prepared, will be published in the press over the next few hours.

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Candidates Claim 'Unethical' Methods Used in Campaign

LD3009223795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the El Djazair hotel in Algiers, an independent candidate in the presidential elections Nasreddine Souakhri held a news conference this afternoon, at which he gave some details about the operation of collecting personal nomination signatures.

According to Souakhri, some of those who announced their intentions to stand as candidates used unethical methods in gathering signatures, such as regionalism, money, religion, and historical reputation. Souakhri observed that some of the candidates presented programs that are copied from abroad and which do not have any connection with Algerian reality. Souakhri believes that it is not possible to judge the credibility of the elections except after the people cast their votes.

Also, Mohamed Saadi, leader of the Islamic Boumedienist National Front who announced that he put his name forward as a candidate, held a news conference at the Lazrak el Kabir hall in Si Haous Square in Constantine at which he dealt with a number of points on the circumstances that prevailed during his preparations for the presidential elections. The most important of these points was that there were hidden hands to terrorize the people in order to prevent them from responding to the national event. He said that this danger must be dealt with now before it is too late.

Answering a question about the administration, he said that there was some high-handedness on the part of some provincial governors, but fortunately these are a minority. Apart from this, most of them responded well to the event.

Presidential Candidate Bencherif Interviewed

LD3009163495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1223 GMT on 30 September carries a 28-minute recording of an interview with Rabeh Bencherif, presidential candidate and leader of the National Party for Solidarity and Development. The interview was conducted by correspondent Mohamed Salah Bouaskar in Constantine. The date of the interview is not specified.

The interview focuses on Bencherif's reasons for running in the presidential elections. Bencherif claims to want the election of a strong presidency and the establishment of a republic.

He says that he is the candidate of the people, and not the party. He stressed that the party is a means, but not an end in itself, and that if elected president he would be too busy to attend to party affairs as his responsibilities would be great, especially after the collapse of the socialist bloc.

Bouaskar reminds Bencherif that some members of the party objected to his candidacy in the name of the party, but Bencherif said that those who objected to his candidacy only represented themselves, and were thrown out of the party by the party's central bureau.

Concerning the process of collecting signatures, he admits that though he and his supporters had distributed around 125,000 applications on citizens throughout the country, few of these were actually returned to the municipal authorities. Bencherif admitted that he might not be able to collect the 75,000 required signatures.

When asked about his economic program, Bencherif says that he had outlined his approach in a book he published earlier entitled "Horizontal Capitalism". It is neither a free market economy, nor a bureaucratic course as represented by planned economy. His approach, he says, follows a middle-of-the-road course.

Bencherif says that in order to improve the agricultural output, he would be using the groundwater reserves in the south of the country, and said that the existing 64 dams in the country which store two billion cubic meters of water only were insufficient for Algeria's needs.

Commentary Views Meetings Between Party Leaders

LD0210190195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The national press these days have circulated the news of meetings of leaders of various parties. The agendas revolved around discussing the situation in the country as we are approaching the presidential elections. Some parties are even studying whether or not to participate in the expected presidential elections. The stances emanating from some of those forces are astonishing, as Fathi Saidi concludes in this article:

[Saidi] The strange matter in the story is that most of the parties, particularly those named the high calibers, speak in a language with an overt aspect of pluralism; its covert aspect is saturated with the practices, mentalities, and reactions of the single party.

What are the characteristics of the single party? They are characterized by not listening to what the others say and the lack of readiness for moderation or concession. They are also characterized by the will to exclude the other sides.

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Such qualities might be easy at the level of the individual, because these cause damage to him alone, but at the level of the societies, they lead to collective suicide.

The practices and mentalities of the single party are also characterized by a small group of individuals, and sometimes by one person, confiscating the party's authority at the expense of the members and strugglers of the party in the name of discipline and order. This phenomenon multiplies the dangers of the collective suicide of the society.

This is the case of some parties and political forces which reject the organization of the presidential elections and attempt by different means to foil and abort them.

What is the solution then to our crisis? Everyone knows that going back is a historically impossible matter. There are those who suggest negotiations, but negotiating and holding a dialogue with who, and who represents who?

The parties and political forces deny legitimacy from the authority and deny legitimacy from one another. The situation in the political arena has become similar to that which prevails on an athletic field in the absence of a referee.

Mr. Liamine Zeroual's decision to organize general presidential elections to appoint the referee, who is the expected, elected president of the republic, and who will enjoy a legitimacy which entitles him not only to find a solution, but also to provide the circumstances and conditions to arrive at a solution through the continuation of the dialogue, as most of the candidate for the presidential elections have stressed.

Thus, everyone from the right to the left, and from the supporters to the rejectors of the elections, are in agreement that the presidential elections are not the final solution, but an introductory condition to open the way towards looking for the solution.

Thus, why is the convulsion and the sickening adherence to rejection? Would it not be better and more worthwhile to rely on God and move forward, even with a short modest step, hoping that it would lead to an elevation which allowed for a better view of the possible quiet peaceful solutions?

Let us go back to the issue of legitimacy and the negotiated solution and ask how could some parties insist on negotiating with the authority when they deny legitimacy from one another, as earlier?

Let us assume that the authority has agreed to negotiate, and we can say that it agreed to negotiate within the framework of the successive rounds of dialogue, but the parties present in the arena are the ones which refused to continue the dialogue, because each party was working towards imposing its point of view to the exclusion of the other points of view.

It is worth concluding this article with a brilliant definition of politics given by Mr. Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui to ESSALAM newspaper at the end of the recent session of the central committee of the Front de Liberation Nationale. He said, politics is the ability to distinguish between degrees of evil and the elections' decision is the least evil.

FIS Founder Member Blames Front for Country's Problems

LD3009153095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmed Merani, one of the founding members of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], said that the front has implicated Algeria in a larger crisis than that from which it was attempting to save it and that halting the electoral course did not justify pushing the country into sedition and destruction and the people to death.

He also considered the forthcoming presidential elections necessary to determine the legitimacy issue and called on the leaders of the Rome parties to take part in them if, as they say, they represented 80 percent of the votes.

This came in statements which Mr. Ahmed Merani made during a short stop in London to a number of Arab and British media on the background to the June events in 1991, the current situation, and the forthcoming presidential elections.

Security Forces Kill 13 'Terrorists'

LD0310201095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the security services says that 13 terrorists were killed by the security forces in the last three days. During the operations they also seized two tons of material used to make explosives.

In a further statement today the security services disclose that their forces killed five terrorists in Oran. The other eight were killed in Rilizane, Mascara, Bouira, Msila, and Batna provinces. The security forces also seized 12 automatic pistols, six hunting rifles and hand grenades.

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Liquified Gas Tanker Added to HYPROC Fleet

LD0210213795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A vessel named Berkine has been added to the tanker fleet of the National Organization for the Transport of Hydrocarbons and Chemicals. The hoisting of the national colors over this vessel was presided over by Arezki Isli, the minister of transport, and the governor of Oran and the directors general of the national organization for the transport of goods.

The tanker fleet of the national enterprise for the transport of hydrocarbons and chemical products [HYPROC] has been consolidated by the addition of an Algerian [liquified] gas tanker which Algeria came to own recently. It was named Berkine after the oilfield of Bir Berkine in the Sahara [passage omitted]

The vessel Berkine has weight capacity of 4,492 cubic meters. It is 95 meters long and 17.20 meters wide. It has a speed of 13 knots. Algeria exports 3,6 million cubic meters of gas annually. Only 30 percent of it is transported by national enterprises whereas 70 percent has been transported by foreign companies. This is why the HYPROC was keen on owning the vessel Berkine to add to the 18 others in order to increase the percentage of Algeria's transport of Algerian gas. [passage omitted]

Algerian-EU Cooperation Council Ends Discussion

LD0410082495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Algerian-EU cooperation council concluded in Luxembourg yesterday its fifth session at the ministerial level under the chairmanship of the Spanish foreign minister, who is the current chairman of the EU, and Mr. Mohamed Salah Demberi, our foreign minister.

In the joint press statement, the two sides confirmed the importance of bilateral cooperation and the prospects of developing this cooperation, also underlining the importance of peace, equilibrium, stability, security, and prosperity in the European- Mediterranean area.

The two sides denounced resorting to violence as a means of political action and resort to terrorism and violence, and underlined that solutions to the Algerian crisis must come from the Algerian people themselves.

According to the final statement, the European Union placed on record the decision of the Algerian Government to hold the forthcoming presidential elections, and it encouraged Algeria that it should continue the dialogue with all the political sides which are committed to nonviolence in promoting the democratic track.

The European Union also expressed its satisfaction with the economic progress achieved by Algeria and underlined its readiness to back the policy of restructuring Algerian economy. It also expressed its satisfaction with the role and participation of Algeria in the process of concluding a European Mediterranean partnership, as well as Algeria's efforts to make the Barcelona conference a starting point for the dialogue process between the EU and the other Mediterranean countries.

Official at Tripoli Embassy Abandoned Post After Recall

LD0210170095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Denying [words indistinct] quoting the London-based daily AL-HAYAH according to which Mohamed Larbi Zitout, the number two of the Algerian Embassy in Libya, abandoned his post to join the opposition set up by the Rome group and that he applied for political asylum in Britain.

As a denial of these reports which have been circulated, a source close to the Foreign Affairs Ministry pointed out, in a statement to the Algerian news agency, that Mohamed Larbi Zitout, who was working as a secretary for foreign affairs at the Algerian Embassy in Tripoli, was recalled on 15 August within the framework of a routine transfer of staff of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and since then he has not been a member of staff of the Embassy.

The same source explained that this person is considered as having abandoned his post as he has not rejoined the central administration.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

NC0310171795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 3 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed that the recent Washington Agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank is considered "an important achievement and a positive major step" on the road to resolving the Palestinian problem. At the same time, he stressed that it is now urgently necessary to activate the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks as they constitute an urgent necessity to realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He noted the importance of building foundations for new ties between the countries in the region based on the fulfillment of three major pillars. These are

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political settlement, economic and social development, and regional security and arms control.

This came in Egypt's speech before the UN General Assembly session, which 'Amr Musa will deliver later today. He discusses in his speech Egypt's viewpoints on numerous important matters, foremost of which is peace in the Middle East, the most important African issues, the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem, terrorism, and developing the Security Council.

'Amr Musa said that the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement is by all standards considered a major positive step for the establishment of two entities, an Israeli and a Palestinian, on the land of Palestine. Such a step will only be finalized by the establishment of the state of Palestine on the whole of the West Bank and Gaza territories. He noted that the Palestinian parliament soon to be elected will also represent the Palestinian people in Jerusalem.

In Egypt's speech before the UN General Assembly, 'Amr Musa once again called for the need to have Israel join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

With regard to Libya's crisis with the West over the Lockerbie affair, 'Amr Musa affirmed that Libya now has the political will to put an end to this crisis by agreeing to try the two suspects and working toward realizing practical solutions within the framework of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

About the Gulf, 'Amr Musa stressed the importance of security in that region. At the same time, he expressed his hopes that the suffering of the Iraqi people would end soon. He rejected any attempts to divide Iraq.

'Amr Musa also expressed Egypt's support for Sudan's unity and safety. He affirmed to the fraternal Sudanese people that truth will eventually triumph and things will return to their normal track away from the policies of terrorism.

He demanded that the special announcement on combatting international terrorism issued by the recent UN round of meetings be implemented.

The foreign minister also affirmed Egypt's support for the rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and their just cause. He said: We do not accept what the Bosnian Government accepts.

Regarding expanding the membership of the Security Council, 'Amr Musa affirmed that Egypt's role in international and regional contribution is on a par with the countries that are qualified to bear responsibility in "a new, expanded, and balanced Security Council with regard to its representation of all regions of the world."

In his speech, 'Amr Musa dedicated a great deal of attention to Middle Eastern affairs. He said that founding the United Nations was contemporaneous with the beginning of a sad chapter on the question of Palestine leading to an Arab-Israeli conflict of many wars and tragedies. Today, 50 years later, we are witnessing the beginnings of a comprehensive solution of this issue, and consequently a move toward an Arab-Israeli peace.

In this regard, he highlighted the UN resolutions that are considered to be the basis for the settlement, particularly Security Council Resolution 242, the resolutions pertaining to Jerusalem and the refugees, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and Resolution 425 on Lebanon.

He noted the signing of the transitional stage agreement on self-rule between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He described it as an important accomplishment along the road to resolving the Palestinian problem, since this is where the second stage of the agreement between the two sides begins, and where the Palestinian Authority [PA] expands into the West Bank and moves firmly toward becoming a government with legislative, executive, and judicial institutions and with a principled regional framework.

He added that despite the fact that the agreement is phased and commitments within the agreement are balanced between the budding entity and Israel, it is considered by all standards a "major positive step" on the strategic level and an actual preparation for dividing the land of Palestine into two entities, an Israeli and a Palestinian, which will be finalized only through the establishment of a Palestinian state all over the territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'Amr Musa clarified that the Palestinian parliament, whose members will be elected during the coming few months, will also represent the Palestinians of Jerusalem. Musa noted that Egypt's conscious choice for peace spearheaded the long road to peace in the Middle East. He noted the obstacles and stumbling blocks that still obstruct the road to comprehensive peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

He reaffirmed the need to activate these two tracks. The same should apply to the Palestinian track, where much depends on honest and timely implementation of what has been agreed between the two sides and serious preparation for the final Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

'Amr Musa reiterated Egypt's call to Middle East countries and nations to give some thought to relations they will establish among themselves in the stage that

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will follow the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He urged them to build the foundations for new ties with each other, noting that these foundations hinge on the fulfillment of three principles: a political settlement, economic and social development, and regional security and arms control.

Musa added: Our view is based on our conviction that peace will not last or be strong except through constructive and equal interaction that serves the mutual interests of all concerned parties.

He noted achievements made so far in the context of the political settlement are still fragile and need a lot of cautious nurturing. In this regard, he said that it is necessary for all the concerned parties not to carry out unilateral acts that will compromise the other parties' rights. He urged them not to try to create fait accomplis that forestall the negotiations and compromise the issues under discussion.

'Amr Musa extolled the Middle Eastern and North African economic summit that was held in Casablanca in October 1994, describing it as an important step in the sphere of regional economic cooperation. He affirmed that real peace is the foundation of economic cooperation.

He added: As Amman's economic summit this October draws near, we reiterate our call for achieving real progress on the various negotiating tracks so as to create the necessary conditions to usher in regional cooperation.

Concerning nuclear weapons, Musa declared that Egypt regards control over armaments and security in the region as the "cornerstone" of any future cooperation.

He said that Egypt believes that the security needed to establish Middle Eastern peace must be based on "equal rights and obligations" among the regional parties in the field of disarmament, on establishing "balanced security" with the least amount of armament, and on guaranteeing security by crystallizing rights and mutual interests not through the use of weapons of mass-destruction.

On this issue, Egypt's foreign minister called for specific steps to be taken so that Israel joins the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and submits its nuclear installations to the IAEA's system of international inspection and guarantees. Israel should also start actual talks to set up "a region free of weapons of mass destruction" in the Middle East. In addition, the countries in the region should review the international agreements on disarmament in order to conform their stances and commitments toward them.

'Amr Musa asked the permanent members of the Security Council, who adopted the resolution on the Middle East during the conference for extending the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, to take specific steps to guarantee that all countries in the region join the Treaty and to start establishing a Middle East free of nuclear weapons, in accordance with the Egyptian initiative that gained the approval of all concerned parties for over 15 years.

As regards Sudan, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa addressed a greeting to the fraternal Sudanese people south of the Nile Valley. He stressed that only truth will triumph at the end. He said that things will inevitably return to normal in Sudan, far from the policies of terrorism and profiteering by religion. Musa added that the ties of friendship and love which were augmented throughout history will remain as strong as the immortal Nile River. The foreign minister said that Egypt, which continues to adopt firm stands, reiterates its clear-cut support for Sudan's unity and territorial integrity within its political borders.

Touching on the Lockerbie crisis, 'Amr Musa said: I can say that Libya has now a clear political will to put an end to this crisis by accepting the trial of the defendants in accordance with the UN resolutions and to work out practical solutions within the context of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Continuing, the foreign minister said that an objective look at the problem stresses the importance of the trial of the defendants, who are accused of committing an international crime. He said the sooner the trial takes place the better for the march of justice and for the families of the victims.

Alluding to the developments in the situation in the Gulf region, the foreign minister said: The stability of the Middle East is contingent on the security and stability of the Gulf region. The Iraqi people continue to suffer from harsh circumstances. Iraq's territory is threatened with partition. We are against the partition of Iraq. Musa said that Egypt hopes that the suffering of the Iraqi people will soon end and that Iraq will again practice its rights and duties as a member of the committed Arab and international communities.

Foreign Minister Musa said that having recognized Kuwait's sovereignty and international borders in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, we hope that Iraq's acceptance of the provisions of the Council's resolutions concerning the weapons of mass destruction would represent a first step toward lessening the sanctions stipulated by resolution 687. We hope that this will also constitute an incentive for the Council to take practical steps for creating a zone free of these

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weapons in the Middle East in accordance with paragraph 14 of the same resolution. He said that this same paragraph has not yet been implemented.

As far as Iran is concerned, the foreign minister said: We urge Iran, which has ties with the Arab world despite the known differences, to resolve the issue of the occupied Arab islands in the Gulf—Abu Musa Tunb al-Kubra and Tubn al-Sughra—and to respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates so that stability will prevail. He said that this would help establish balanced relations between the Arab and Iranian sides.

While discussing the tragedy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the foreign minister criticized what he called the double standard which has become one of the features of the so-called the new international order. This order has lost its credibility as a result of this policy, Musa added.

The foreign minister maintained that the fall of the areas which were declared safe by the United Nations has shaken the prestige of the international order and raised doubts over the effectiveness of the peace-keeping order. Nevertheless, 'Amr Musa expressed Egypt's welcome of the current international peace efforts which are aimed at putting an end to the bloody struggle in Bosnia-Herzegovina provided these efforts would not dismember or partition it and provided that the objectives of the peace plan would be fair.

Continuing, the foreign minister said: As part of our constant support for the Bosnian people's rights and just cause, we will accept whatever the Bosnian government accepts, particularly since Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has shown flexibility and responsiveness to international resolutions at all times.

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed several principles that should be taken into consideration in the peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Foremost of them is the non-acceptance of equality between the aggressor and the victim of aggression and not pressuring the weaker party on the pretext of reaching solutions. It should be taken into consideration that redrawing a map for partitioning the Bosnian territories must not perpetuate the results of the policy of aggression, expansion, and ethnic cleansing.

He asserted that the recognition of an entity for the Bosnian Serbs within the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina requires a scrupulous international handling of the political, military, and institutional imbalance between the parties concerned. Also there should be international guarantees for a potential agreement. He noted the importance of arming the Bosnian Government with the necessary defensive means to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense according to the charter.

He noted the recourse to applying collective security measures if necessary to support the negotiating process so that the regional settlement plan can be effected. He also noted the need to punish war criminals for the crimes they have committed so that the talk about world human rights will not be a joke. He praised the efforts made by the United nations Protection Force, including the Egyptian force, all of which are performing their duties courageously amid very difficult conditions.

Delivering Egypt's speech at the UN General Assembly, Musa reviewed the most important issues in Africa, which is suffering from tensions in various regions in addition to the challenges of development. He emphasized the need to consolidate the international efforts aiming to help in restructuring the African countries' economies and diversifying their exports. He also emphasized the need to enhance regional integration and merging between the continent's states, especially since the Abuja treaty on establishing an African economic group has come into force. He noted the importance of the African countries' efforts to support and develop the OAU's mechanism to prevent, handle, and settle conflicts. He said these efforts require financial and technical backing from the United Nations and the international community alike.

The Egyptian foreign minister drew attention to the tension in Rwanda and Burundi, "Egypt's brothers and partners in the Nile water". He said the proposed regional conference of the great lakes countries must devise regional policies to find solutions to the problems of the region's countries from a collective perspective dealing with refugees, ethnic conflicts, and other issues.

Regarding Somalia, Musa expressed Egypt's hope that all Somali parties will adhere to African values and will follow reason and logic in the interest of the Somali people and extricate themselves from their hard predicament. He emphasized the importance of the international community and the United Nations continuing their humanitarian and economic aid for all provinces of Somalia so that the famine tragedy of 1992 will not recur.

Besides this, Musa praised the positive developments in Africa in the last two years, whether in South Africa, Mozambique, or Angola.

As regards developing nations, Musa warned of the growing sidelining of the developing countries' role on the world economic stage and said this will create new confrontation lines between the north and the south.

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He called for finding solutions to the developing nations' foreign debts and for the international community's solidarity with these nations by providing a favorable economic climate and by extending them a helping hand.

He asserted that, even though it is necessary for economic growth, the liberalization of world trade needs rationalization in light of the existing structural disorders and the huge and steadily growing gap between the advanced and developing nations.

He added that some advanced countries' selectivity in liberalizing their trade, in addition to protectionist measures veiled behind considerations of protecting the environment, human rights, or other issues, contradicts the spirit of the call to liberalize world trade. This, he added, would perpetuate and increase the current disorders.

Musa welcomed the start of World Trade Organization. He expressed his hope that offsetting these disorders will be one of the organization's most important preoccupations in the coming stage. He noted the need for the UNCTAD to continue its role as a qualified world negotiating forum to achieve consensus on issues defining the link between free trade and development.

Regarding terrorism, Musa said the phenomenon of terrorism has begun to annoy many nations which got fed up with criminal acts. These acts, he said, aim to scare societies and export terrorism from countries which we know to be homes to extremism, bases for murderers and criminals, and shelter for terrorists, giving them refuge and support.

He added that recent events proved that terrorism is not exclusive to a particular geographical area, culture, or religion. Therefore, he noted, it is unwise for some people to attempt to view Islam as synonymous with extremism. It is a grave injustice for some people to disregard discrimination between Islam—a noble, tolerant faith that raises man's standing—and the terrorism and extremism of devious and depraved groups that hide behind the cloak of the tolerant Islamic religion.

The Egyptian foreign minister called for concerted efforts by everyone to implement the declaration on combating international terrorism which was endorsed at the UN General assembly's previous session. He added that the declaration should be implemented to close "the doors of shelters" in the face of those whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent people. He also called for the need to develop a strong legal system to prosecute those responsible for terrorist acts and to try and bring them to account for their crimes that terrify peaceful nations and threaten world stability and security.

Commenting on the new world order, Musa said the end of the cold war removed huge obstacles to international cooperation in various fields. However, he added, this will not automatically lead to a new world order based on legitimacy, justice, democracy, preserving peace, and achieving nations' prosperity and progress. The situation needs agreement in views on the context of this order and on its rules of behavior. There is also need to dispel fears that are growing as a result of the established duplicitous policies we are witnessing and the attempt to find an ideological enemy with the aim of mobilizing efforts against it and criticizing and subjugating it.

He added that it not possible for us to face the challenges of tomorrow with the methods of yesterday. The concept of security is no longer linked to land and borders only as most armed conflicts take place within the borders of the countries themselves at a time when the lack of economic and social development has become a serious international problem.

He stressed the importance of the United Nations being able to handle all new issues and devise a formula for democratic international consensus on such issues. He emphasized that the United nations' ability to achieve this consensus depends on the prospects of its success in closing the "gap of credibility" it has suffered over recent years.

He referred to the notion of expanding the Security Council's membership. He said Egypt realizes there is agreement that increasing the Security Council is inevitable to enhance the council's effectiveness by expanding the base of international participation in assuming primary responsibilities in the region. Therefore, he added, Egypt affirms that its regional and international contributions, as well as its Arab, African, Middle Eastern and other contributions and its continuous support of United Nations efforts place it in the rank of the countries that are qualified to bear responsibility in a new and expanded security council balanced in representing various world regions.

He noted that Egypt's view of expanding the membership is that the aim is not to increase the number of permanent seats of the advanced countries at the expense of developing countries. The object is to achieve the required balance between the two sides by strengthening the council with a number of developing nations that are able to assume such responsibility.

He praised the ideas proposed by Egypt and other counties on adding new seats to be occupied alternately

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by a specific number of countries because such move enhances the council's role.

Concluding his speech, Musa lauded UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's efforts to modernize the organization's work and assert its effectiveness so that it can keep pace with the developments of the age.

Mubarak Views Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

NC0310193695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 95

[Remarks by President Husni Mubarak in response to question by unidentified correspondent after inaugurating a new museum in al-Jizah in Cairo on 3 October —recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] With regard to the Syrian track, as a result of its contacts and efforts Egypt recently managed to achieve results on the Palestinian track leading to the Taba Agreement and the official signing of the agreement in Washington. With regard to the Syrian track, will Egypt exert any efforts in the coming stage?

[Mubarak] Let me tell you one thing. There is a big difference between the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. Syria is an independent country with resources and potential. We always consult with Syria. As for the Palestinians, they are a people who did not have a land. All of us, ourselves and Syria, used to help them. Perhaps there were some differences in opinion, but our responsibility was to help the Palestinians to get their land back so that they can live on it.

Mubarak Says NDP Candidates To Be Announced

NC0310213195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has announced that the National Democratic Party [NDP] will announce the names of its candidates in the next People's Assembly elections in four or five days.

President Mubarak said in statements to reporters after inaugurating the Muhammad Mahmud Khalil museum this evening: I have just returned from the United States. The NDP will run in the elections in all constituencies.

Answering a question on changes in the NDP candidates, which will range between 40 to 60 percent, President Mubarak said: Let me tell you one thing frankly. The candidate who will win in the next elections will be the candidate elected by the people. We are trying to say that these candidates are good candidates. Some people are asking us to choose the candidates. President Mubarak asks in wonder: Should we appoint the People's Assembly members? The people will elect them and this is the duty of the citizens. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington over the issue of Egyptian POW's who were killed by the Israeli forces, President Mubarak said: We discussed this matter in a positive way. I asked him to do something about it. There is also Egyptian public opinion to consider. Rabin did not say no, but asked for some time. We do not want this to be a problem between the two countries. We want a solution to this problem and, after all, they are the ones who raised this issue, not us.

Answering a question on the proposal to transform late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's house into a museum and center for studies which the Egyptian Solidarity Committee announced it will be presenting to the president, President Mubarak said: I did not receive any proposals on this matter. I cannot express my opinion on it before studying it. I do not form an opinion before seeking counsel. This house could be turned into a permanent headquarters for the presidency. [passage omitted]

European-Egyptian Partnership Meetings Opens

NC0310140395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings between Egypt and the European Union started today at the Foreign Ministry on the technical committees level to look into renewing the agreement of Egyptian partnership with Europe signed in 1977 and valid until 1996.

Ambassador Jamal Bayyumi, assistant foreign minister dealing with Egyptian-European partnership issues and head of the Egyptian side to the meetings, has stated that Egypt will inform the European side during these meetings of its viewpoints on the bases and rules of partnership with Europe before the second renewal of the Egyptian-European partnership protocol.

Trial of 'Brothers' Said 'Assault' on Constitution

NC0410090895 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 1

[From the "Al-Wafd's View" column: "Military Trials, an Assault on the Constitution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is certain that the decision to refer the Muslim Brothers to a military judiciary constitutes a blatant violation of the Constitution, not to mention a violation of the international agreement on civilian and political rights.

The people are surprised at the timing of these trials. It has been determined that the ultimate goal of all this is

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to deprive the Muslim Brothers of their right to run as candidates in the electoral battle Egypt is preparing to enter, hoping it will produce a real People's Assembly that defends the people's rights rather than speaking for the government.

As it embarks on a new era of freedoms, Egypt views these trials as a step backward, or rather a setback that gives the government control of the fate of any elections. Denying any group the right to run in the elections is tantamount to putting a fence between the citizen and his citizenship rights, as well as his constitutional rights.

Depriving a citizen of the right to stand trial before a regular judge is an interference we categorically reject. With all due respect, the military judiciary does not give a citizen all the litigation stages a regular judge would. This is a restriction of a citizen's freedom and use of stipulations we would hate to see the state use to settle its accounts.

If the state has started by referring the Muslim Brothers to a military judiciary because of the differences we all know, the recurrence of such a measure with non-Muslim Brothers becomes a possibility. Hence, the need for a united stance of all the opposition parties in Egypt to reject these military trials, not because they are military, but because they restrict the freedom of individuals — regardless of their affiliations — and deny them the freedom to exercise their constitutional rights.

The entire opposition in Egypt rejects the policy of violence. But we also reject oppression and call for taking the road charted by the Constitution and urged by logic and reason.

'Terrorist' Briefs Prosecution on Activities

NC0310202495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, public prosecutor at the Higher State Security Prosecution office, has decided to imprison terrorist Khalid 'Abd-al-Qadir for 15 days pending the outcome of ongoing investigations against him.

The defendants gave detailed information about his relationship with several terrorists who were recently killed by the police force. He said that he is in constant contact with fugitive terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, who took part in the planning of the assassination attempt on President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The defendant briefed the prosecution on the terrorists' plan to commit their vile operation in Addis Ababa. He told the prosecution how some terrorists have failed to blow up certain installations.

'Repentant Extremists' To Be Freed

NC0310222095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—A new group of repentant extremists who declared their repentance, renounced extremist ideology, and returned to the teachings of tolerant Islam will be released from al-Mazra'ah prison in Liman Turah on Thursday [5 October].

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has decided for the first time to release 30 repentant extremists for merely humane and social reasons among the group of 353 people.

This is the eighth group to be freed since al-Alfi began to free extremists who declare their repentance and renounce extremist ideology.

Archbishop of Canterbury Holds News Conference

NC0310115895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—The archbishop of Canterbury, George Leonard Carey, has noted the importance of Islamic-Christian dialogue. He emphasized that it is important for believers in the two religions to get to know the ideas of their two religions. He added: If there is goodwill, this dialogue could inspire solutions to many problems.

Speaking at a news conference at the British Embassy last night he pointed out that the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not religious, but is an ethnic conflict. He noted that he would rather not link politics with religion, which is based on addressing hearts and souls.

He noted that during his current visit to Egypt he met [Awqaf Minister] Dr. Muhammad Mahjub and His Eminence Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, al-Azhar grand imam.

Writer Against Involving Religion in POW Affair

NC0310094895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic on 20 September, on page 5, carries a 1,100-word article entitled "The Killing of Prisoners Between Political Islam and International Law." The article, written by Dr. Mahmud Khayyal, secretary of the Egyptian Enlightenment Society, warns that involving religion in the controversy over Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's could backfire and harm Egypt.

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The writer says: After the crime of the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars emerged, several newspapers and magazines came out with articles contrasting this Jewish crime with Islam's treatment of prisoners. These articles portrayed one aspect of the issue—belief that they are thus serving religion and that the end justifies the means. These articles emphasized that Islam, to the exclusion of other religions, stipulates that prisoners should be treated fairly. The writer adds: We do not wish to judge the conscience of these writers or examine why they have linked this issue with what they consider the "Islamic theory." But we ask: Does this theory not need further reading and revision? What about the form and content of this theory? What if it appears that this theory, at least in some of its aspects, is not what they have presented?

The writer says a meticulous researcher of heritage books will not be surprised by the "contradictions" in the prisoners issue. Looking "on the bright side," he says, Islam urges the good treatment of prisoners. He cites events following the Badr battle as an example, saying Prophet Muhammad pardoned all the prisoners. At the same time the same heritage books "carry another picture " of Islam's treatment of prisoners and of Muslims killing their unarmed prisoners. He notes that Prophet Muhammad ordered that prisoner 'Uqbah Bin-Abi-Mu'ayt be killed. Prophet Muhammad also ordered that 400 Jews from the Banu-Qurayzqh tribe be killed following their siege and surrender. Prophet Muhammad supervised the execution and distribution of the prisoners to their killers from his supporters from the al-Aws and al-Khazraj tribes.

The writer says: If we insist on involving religion in every contemporary civilian issue, I am afraid the day will come when Israel will absolve itself from its despicable crime and will claim that it committed no crime and that what it did was fully in line with precedents in Islamic history.

The writer adds: The crime involving the killing of POW's in 1956 and 1967 is a legal, global, and cultural crime that must not be subjected to Islamic one-upmanship. He notes that non-Muslim Egyptians were among these POW's and asks: For them will we seek compensation equal to the compensation for Muslim martyrs? Or will we forgo their rights on the basis that they were atheists?

Libya

GPC Urges 'Decisive' OIC Stand on Lockerbie

LD0310150395 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Great Jamahiriyah has called on the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] to implement all its resolutions vis-a-vis Islamic issues which it adopted at previous conferences. During a meeting held by the OIC [in New York] at the foreign ministers' level on the sidelines of the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee [GPC] for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said that this meeting is being held against international and regional variables which call on us more than ever before to intensify efforts and unify stances in order to support everything that contributes to serving issues of mutual interest of the Islamic states at the current session of the General Assembly, and in a manner that guarantees the confrontation of the many challenges resulting from the rapid changes in many parts of the world, a matter that requires the Islamic delegation to coordinate their stands and effectively participate in the issues listed on the agenda of the organization so as to check the campaign of belittling and violating Islam and Muslims.

He added that the members of the OIC know full well the secrets of the so-called Lockerbie question, which was fabricated by the Western states. He called on the members of the OIC to take a decisive stand at the level of the OIC resolutions and pledge to support the stand of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis this issue and to work to remove the unjust measures imposed on the Jamahiriyah. He called for the adoption of a specific stand at this meeting and implementation of the resolutions of the OIC on this issue, and support for the resolution of the OAU Ministerial Council and a unifying of efforts with the regional and international organizations in order to find a just and peaceful solution to the so-called Lockerbie question.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stressed the Great Jamahiriyah's support and effective backing for the issues of Islam and Muslims all over the world.

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Tribe Alleges Authorities Killed Ex-Minister

MM0210120195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan al-'Ubaydat Tribe Accuses Authorities of Assassinating Former Justice Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Libyan al-'Ubaydat tribe (the largest of the Libyan tribes) yesterday issued a statement signed by 40 of its notables accusing the regime's organs of assassinating former Libyan Justice Minister Ibrahim al-Bakkar (from 'Ubaydat) who was said to have been killed in a car accident early in 1993. The statement said that following investigations that lasted two years, the tribe has concluded that the accident had been planned, for a number of reasons: First, al-Bakkar's insistence on revealing clues to the bombing of the Libyan plane on 22 September 1992. The plane was on a flight between Banghazi and Tripoli with 200 passengers on board. The Libyan Revolutionary Committee told him at the time not to interfere in the matter.

Second, his conflict with some security organs which he had discovered were involved in corruption practices. Third, his refusal to carry out the regime's instructions to appoint members of the Revolutionary Committees to important judicial posts. Fourth, his refusal to prepare pro-forma courts to pass death sentences on fundamentalist prisoners. Fifth, his threat to announce the names of the security elements who stormed the Venezuelan and Russian Embassies in 1992 wearing civilian clothes and pretending to be demonstrators protesting against the sanctions imposed on Libya. Sixth, the person who hit al-Bakkar's car was an ordinary soldier whom the state paid 50,000 Libyan dinars to achieve reconciliation with al-Bakkar's family — which raises questions about the ability of an ordinary soldier to pay such a sum of money.

Paper Discusses Issue of Foreign Workers in Country

LD0210132595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 2 Oct (JANA) — AL-SHAMS newspaper dealt with the issue of dispensing with foreign workers in the Great Jamahiriyah. An article published on the inside pages of AL-SHAMS newspaper yesterday says that various discussions have been held on the issue of foreign workers coming to Libya whom we did not need.

The newspaper added that the main reason for dispensing with foreign workers is care for public interest in the Great Jamahiriyah with regard to public, food, health and environment security. However, another aspect: the humanitarian condition of those workers attracted the attention as well. While we considered them our guests, we were ashamed when they slept in the streets or when they worked at menial tasks [yamtahinuna mihan la tuliq min al-nahiya al-insaniya]. For this reasons we had to take steps regarding those who did not understand their own or our interests. But, their governments should be urged to help us take organizational steps to insure that they are provided with a reasonable standard of living.

The paper said that the Libyan people were concerned about what was happening as a result of the foreign workers coming to stay in Libya. Although we welcomed all of them and our country was opened to them it should have taken place according to our need for them and for the economic return they could bring without destabilizing various aspects of our security.

The paper went on to say that the reason for their arrival should be defined as either a visit, seeking work, for business and so on and residency should be granted according to the value of the currency they bring with them.

The newspaper said that the task requires some kind of organization and should be done in accordance with the law and official measures. More attention should be given to this issue by the competent bodies by providing more organization and introducing modern technology at border checkpoints. This would facilitate implementation of many measures and would save much embarrassment, especially regarding those who carried out criminal acts; adding their names to a computer list would eliminate the possibility of their readmission to the country.

The paper concluded by saying that it is our right to organize our own life and affairs and no sane person in the world can ask us not to implement our laws within our Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Chinese Prime Minister Visits, Delivers Speech

LD0410084595 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign relations and cooperation, hosted a banquet tonight in honor of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng. [passage omitted]

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, the prime minister and minister of foreign relations and coopera-

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tion welcomed, in his own name and on behalf of the Moroccan Government, the Chinese prime minister and his delegation. He also talked about the desire of both countries to maintain the Moroccan-Chinese friendship and endeavor to consolidate their relations. He said that the relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the People's Republic of China are characterized by mutual respect and esteem stemming from the harmony that has linked the two friendly peoples throughout the ages. [passage omitted]

Mr. Abdellatif Filali also expressed satisfaction with the views the two governments shared about various international issues. He said their common denominator is the call for dialogue, the search for solutions through peaceful means, and the entrenchment of cooperation through the establishment of security and peace with a view to achieving growth and prosperity for all.

He also highlighted the eagerness of the Kingdom of Morocco to bolster its relations with China, the friendly country, and its desire to strengthen these relations in the various economic, commercial, cultural, and technical areas and exchange expertise. [passage omitted]

In the political area, the prime minister and minister of foreign relations and cooperation stressed Morocco's desire to bolster South-South cooperation with a view to establishing a new economic order based on justice, equality, and joint development. He hailed China's contributions to entrench solidarity and cooperation between the Third World countries. He also expressed his total satisfaction with the expected results of the Moroccan-Chinese talks. He wished China, Morocco's friend, more progress and wealth and for the Chinese people more prosperity.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said he is happy to visit the Kingdom of Morocco, which boasts an ancient history and civilization. He added that despite the long distance between them, the two countries have endeavored to entrench their ties of friendship and cooperation. After hailing the heroic struggle of his majesty Mohamed V, who left a tremendous impact in the hearts of the Chinese, Li Peng praised the enormous efforts that His Majesty King Hassan II is making to preserve national dignity and develop Morocco's economy, which, he said, has seen an important development despite the challenges it has faced.

In the political area, the Chinese prime minister praised Morocco's nonaligned policy and its effective contribution to lay down the bases of solidarity between the Muslim and Arab states and preserve regional security.

Mr. Li Peng said the Moroccan-Chinese relations of friendship and cooperation have made important progress at all levels as they took into account the two countries'common interests. He also hoped that his official visit to Morocco will bolster these relations.

At the end of his speech, the Chinese prime minister wished wealth and prosperity for the kingdom of Morocco, good health for His Majesty King Hassan II, and for Moroccan-Chinese relations continued progress and development.

Sudan

Government Preparing To Preempt Criticism at UN

EA0310121795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Oct 95

[Commentary by Yusuf 'Abd-al-Mannan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudan will take part in the 50th UN Assembly with a high-level delegation to be led by Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha. The UN General Assembly's session comes at a time when the international arena is crying out for solutions to pressing and important issues, including the subjection of Sudan to ferocious media campaigns targeting its creed and orientation. Our commentator Yusuf 'Abd-al-Mannan has examined these points and written the following analysis:

The UN has placed the collapsed security situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina on its agenda, before the racial and political problems in the world, terrorism, the Palestinian issue, and scores of other pending international issues [passage omitted]

Taking into consideration the Sudanese issues that could be put on the table before the major international meeting, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry has begun quite early on to prepare for this session. This is to avert any surprises, which European and some Arab countries neighboring Sudan have habitually placed on the agenda with the aim of hurting Sudan's image. They are exploiting Butrus Butrus-Ghali's leadership of the organization, because he has made a habit of being prejudiced against Sudan.

International organizations, some European countries, the United States, and human rights organizations have begun to hint once again about issues such as political terrorism. They have timed these moves so that they coincide with a court decision to convict the blind Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and others in the case of destroying the UN headquarters in New York. [as heard]

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There are indications that some countries such as the United States and Egypt may find a pretext to heap more accusations on Sudan falsely and without [word indistinct].

The man who goes by the name of (Gaspar Biiru), the special rapporteur on human rights, has already begun to make these statements condemning Sudan without any justification, despite the fact that he is far away from Sudan and he most recently visited the country two years ago. At that time Khartoum refused to receive him following his report, which offended the faith of the Muslim people.

The high-level Sudanese delegation, which has left the country for New York and which is led by Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, is quite capable of reflecting Sudan's real image and pursuing those who condemn Sudan in the world parliament without any justification and concoct false accusations against it without any facts or information [words indistinct].

We conclude by saying that the international organization ought to discuss real issues, such as the war in Bosnia, the ethnic tragedies in Rwanda and Burundi, the issue of food shortages, and minorities' issues. It should keep away from differences between states [as heard] and from targeting Muslims as terrorists and fundamentalists. This targeting can be clearly seen by everybody. They are hostile to Muslim countries.

Foreign Minister Taha Views Ties With Egypt

NC0310204995 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 29 Sep 95 pp 21, 64

[Report by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha was not expected in Cairo to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers amid this tense atmosphere in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. But Egypt's doors were and will remain open to everybody, even those who insult it, for this has always been Egypt's custom with all Arabs, because it is above these things. However, the Sudanese minister's arrival brought with him the isolation that the regime has imposed on itself. Throughout his stay, the minister moved between only three places: The hotel, the Arab League, and the Sudanese embassy. He only met his Iraqi and Yemeni counterparts, although 19 Arab ministers were present. He tried to meet with 'Amr Musa, who stated that reports on such a meeting are mere speculations and groundless.

This isolation was perhaps the reason for the nervousness in most of his answers, although he tried very hard to keep a superficial smile and a false calmness that soon went away in the face of any question. He tried to attack first, acting on the principle that attack is the best defense. Then he decided to evade answering some questions by asking questions. Although he is a great maneuverer from the Islamic Front and is known for his intelligence, his answers revealed much.

Taha said flatly: I did not come for the Arab League Council meetings, for I knew in advance that neither the Arab Code of Honor, the Court of Justice, nor any significant issue would be endorsed. This is because the Arabs actually do not want anything serious that backs inter-Arab action. They earnestly seek to postpone things to March, then September, next March, and so on. I came to Cairo to emphasize that Sudan does not want to sever ties with Egypt. I am certain that a possibility exists for mending the rift in relations.

I asked him: Don't you believe that the extradition of the defendants in the Addis Ababa incident to Ethiopia and the handing over of Mustafa Hamzah, who is sentenced to death in Egypt, is the shortest way to do so?

Taha said: The security file is one of the issues which Sudan is eager to discuss with Egypt, but as part of a full discussion of bilateral relations so that the remedy could be mutual and reciprocal. Sudan's stand on terrorism and political violence is clear, as demonstrated by its extradition of "Carlos" to France and the hijackers of an Ethiopian plane that landed in Sudan to Addis Ababa.

I asked: Sudan has handed "Carlos" over to France. Is not it more worthwhile for Sudan to hand over Mustafa Hamzah to Egypt?

Taha answered, very nervously: We do not have anybody by that name and we have no information on him. We asked Egypt for official information, but we have received nothing. We are talking about principles, not individuals. Before an agreement on the mode of dealings between the two countries is reached, such things cannot be discussed.

I asked: But Egypt has recently monitored contacts between Hamzah in Sudan and his followers in Egypt?

Nervously, Taha answered: I am not the intelligence chief nor the interior minister to answer this question. I am a foreign minister who deals in policies.

To this I asked: But these matters affect external policies and..?

He did not even let me finish my question and steered the conversation away from this point. He said: You view us in such a manner as if it is necessary for love to be one-sided; that we should do so and so and give so and so while you do nothing.

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I answered: This is not true. Why have you terminated the work of the Egyptian educational mission in Khartoum, seized its buildings and expelled the Egyptian students, and seized 24 Egyptian irrigation rest houses?

He did not answer my question and, instead, asked me: Why has Egypt downgraded its diplomatic representation and canceled the appointment of the Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum?

I said: Our logic is clear here. This is the minimum reply to the Ethiopian statement implicating and condemning Sudan in the assassination attempt against President Mubarak.

To this, he said: Ethiopia itself has not severed its ties with us. You say you want the defendants extradited, so why should there not be an Egyptian ambassador at least to conduct a dialogue. He then asked in a manner that suggested he was trying to trap me: What have you done to our diplomats, who were beaten up in the streets and humiliated?

I said: Our consul and some of our diplomats in Khartoum were the target of similar incidents.

Taha said: Not at this level or in such manner. Our ambassador accredited in Cairo was beaten up, was your ambassador beaten?

I said: Then it is a matter of a consul versus an ambassador?

Trying to sidestep the matter, he said: You are launching a media war against the regime and call it the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime. [sentence as published]

I asked him: Is it not the front's regime? Can you give one difference between the regime and the front?

Taha said: Sudanese political parties actually ceased to exist seven years ago. The front's supporters backed the regime from the beginning and supporters of other party forces also greatly backed the new regime so these parties lost their teeth and diminished.

I said: But the staging of huge popular demonstrations by thousands of students and trade union members against the regime last week confirms that there is a strong opposition to the regime. They also chanted slogans against al-Turabi.

Instead of talking about these demonstrations, he spoke about the demonstrations which the state organized in response to the opposition. The state spent days collecting the front's men and supporters from all parts of Sudan.

He said dismissively: If the emergence of three thousand students in demonstrations means that the regime will go, let us see whether it will go or not.

I said: Your regime does not tolerate opposition or counter opinion. You destroyed the parties and party newspapers and...

He answered: This is our internal affair. Sudan has chosen a political system with multiple ideas and views, not multiple rostrums and parties. The regime does not authorize parties but it allows everyone to exchange ideas and views. We have tried pluralism but it did not work and we have the right to try this system.

I said: Once again these are the most violent demonstrations experienced by the regime. The regime was embroiled in murdering some demonstrators; there were three according to official statements and six according to other information. Anyway, they were killed by the front's guards not by security men. Besides, Sudanese television and radio broadcast appealed to the men of the forces defending the faithful take to the streets. He replied: Deaths occur in any clashes in any country. It is not true that the front's guards are the ones who killed. Two were killed in the clashes because of the stampede and the third was killed by the police. As regards the committee in defense of the faith, it is a political, popular organization established in 1985. The appeal was for participation in the counter demonstration not to hit the demonstrators. I said: Once again I am asking about Hasan al-Turabi and his stand hostile to Egypt and his threat to control the Nile water flow to Egypt.

Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, who is one of Dr. al-Turabi's students, replied strongly defending his teacher: Al-Turabi came to Egypt in 1987 and made about the visit important statements which no one heeded or dealt with. We realize that every country has its own characteristics and the Islamic action program which fits us does not suit Egypt or any other country in its exact form.

We are a country whose Islamic identity is disputed and we have many religions. We also have people who ask are we Arabs or Muslims? As for Egypt, it has no such controversy. Its Islamic and Arab identity is quite clear. The Copts in Egypt are a minority and they know this clearly. However, Egypt is the one who is launching a campaign against al-Turabi.

I said: But it is al-Turabi who, in his speeches, attacks the Egyptian regime. This is in addition to his front's contacts with extremist groups in Egypt.

The foreign minister did not reply but asked rebukingly: But al-Bashir does not attack the Egyptian regime and yet you attack him. Al-Bashir is the head of the state, not al-Turabi. The problem is that the Egyptians look at Sudan from an old perspective; they view Sudan merely as the line the Nile River flows through to them. Thus,

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Sudan does not mean to you anything more than that; just ensuring that the Nile water flows into Egypt. As for human relations, you do not give them any weight. This is my second visit to Egypt in six months, while the Egyptian foreign minister has not visited Sudan for 10 years now.

He said calmly: We see no presence for us in the Arab world except through Egypt. We cannot be among the Damascus Declaration, the Gulf Cooperation Council, or the Arab Maghreb Union countries. Egypt is the cornerstone in our dealing with the Arabs and only through Egypt can we regroup this nation.

I said: You are the ones who are severing links and the examples of that are many.

He turned nervous again and said: It is enough that I came to Egypt aboard an Egyptian plane to prove the opposite.

I said this is not enough and the interview ended. [sentence as published]

Western Sahara

President Gives News Conference on Referendum

LD0310161995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz held a news conference this morning at Djenane El-Mithak in which he reviewed recent developments in the Saharan issue and at the UN Security Council. Bechir Hadibil attended the news conference and sent the following report:

[Begin Hadibil recording] The Saharan president began this morning's news conference at Djenane El-Mithak by mentioning the latest developments in Western Sahara, recent developments at the UN Security Council, and the obstacles that Moroccan authorities are continuing to put up to hamper the settlement plan that was organized a long time ago and is now in its fifth year.

Mr. Abdelaziz also assessed his 12-day visit to Germany that allowed him to present the Saharan problem at all levels in Germany and to reveal Moroccan cheating and UN collusion.

The Saharan president accused Moroccan authorities, the distance the United Nations is placing between itself and the issue, and neglect; he said: the Saharan people and army waited for a long time for the implementation of the referendum, and continuing to cheat and delay organizing a just and fair process will inevitably make the Saharan people take up arms again.

The Saharan president stated that this option is the final card in the hand of the Saharan people, because they are hoping that the referendum will be held — since the cause is just and sure and its supporters are right — but with the elimination of all Moroccan attempts at rigging it by incorporating the latest groups of Moroccans whom the Moroccan authorities presented to the UN missions as the original inhabitants of Western Sahara. If the United Nations is not aware of this group of 100,000 Moroccans, the Saharan president said, it will deprive the Saharan people of their independence, because the results will be guaranteed for Moroccan authorities.

In his conference, the Saharan president also urged the United Nations and the Security Council to intervene with the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, to cancel the visit planned for 6 November to Laayoune on the occasion of what Moroccan authorities call The Green March, which Mr. Abdelaziz considers a blatant challenge to international resolutions and the work of the UN mission on Saharan territory. [end recording]

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Kuwait

Defense Council Briefed on Security Situation

LD0310131695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Supreme Defense Council of the State of Kuwait held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent, prime minister, and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

The Council heard a detailed brief presented by the Army chief of General Staff and his assistants regarding the security situation in the area and cooperation and coordination with the fraternal and friendly states in the military field.

Oman

Oil, Gas Cooperation Discussed With Iran

LD0310204495 Tehran IRNA in English 2028 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE), Oct. 3, IRNA — Cooperation in the oil and gas sectors was discussed in Muscat today between Iranian ambassador Siavash Zargar-Ya'qubi and Oman's minister of petroleum and minerals, Sa'id Bin-Ahmad Bin-Sa'id al-Shanfari.

The Omani petroleum minister expressed his satisfaction concerning the agreement reached on joint oil exploration in the Hengam-Bekha field in the Persian Gulf, adding that he considered such an agreement as an important step towards stronger ties between the two countries. Zargar-Ya'qubi stressed the importance of promotion of bilateral Tehran-Muscat relations, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran was keen on a joint venture in development projects Oman. [as received]

The two sides also emphasized on further bilateral cooperation in all areas. Iran controls the northern side of the strategic Hormuz Strait while Oman controls the southern side.

Yemen

Salih Receives 'Arafat, Discusses Taba Agreement

JN0410085695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Aballah Salih received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, last night. 'Arafat briefed the brother president on the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the Palestinian-Israeli peace march since the agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule, which was recently signed in Washington. He also handed him a copy of the agreement and briefed him on the results of his meetings and contacts with U.S. officials, as well as his talks with a number of Arab leaders.

The two presidents discussed issues and developments of interest to the Arab nation, headed by efforts to restore Arab solidarity. The president expressed our country's support for the Palestinian question and its blessing of and support for the peace process and all efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees lasting stability in the region and peaceful coexistence among its peoples. He noted the importance of achieving progress in the peace process on all tracks, including the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat expressed his thanks and appreciation for our country's support of the Palestinian people's issue in order to restore their legitimate rights.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier General Mujahid Abu- Shawarib, the president's adviser; Yahya Rabah, the Palestinian ambassador to our country; and Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, President 'Arafat's media adviser.

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U.S. Said Denying Kurds Referendum Opportunity

JN0310151795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0840 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—AL-'IRAQ newspaper states that given the abnormal situation currently prevailing in the autonomous region, the United States and its allies will be responsible for preventing the Kurdish people from exercising their legitimate right of taking part in the referendum due to be held in mid-October.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ adds that a part of our Kurdish people will not be able to take part in this historic feat due to the abnormal situation in the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

The paper goes on to say: The Kurdish people have rallied behind their leader, who is the symbol of their national unity, since the inception of the 17-30 July revolution. They have epitomized their allegiance to the homeland and leader President Saddam Husayn through their valiant confrontation, their opposition to all forms of anarchy, and their denunciation of the practices of the teetering leaders who claim to be acting on their behalf.

The paper says: Regardless of the attempts of the enemies, chief among which is imperialism and its allies, to straighten things out in the autonomous region, the sun cannot be covered by a sieve. The everlasting truth that cannot be concealed is that the Kurdish people love His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the paragon of their glory and growing renaissance and their leader who engineered autonomous rule.

The paper concludes by saying: The Iraqi people, be they Arabs, Kurds, or ethnic minority groups, will renew the pledge of allegiance to Saddam Husayn, the symbol of Iraq and the epitome of its loftiness. They will demonstrate affection for him and rally behind his banner, which champions the unity and sovereignty of Iraq.

The paper notes that the "yes" vote the Iraqi people will cast on 15 October will be significant and equal in strength to the "no" vote Iraq cast against imperialism when it confronted it and rejected its hegemony and custodianship.

Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session on Water Project

JN0310142595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1145 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn presided over the 37th session of the Council of Ministers.

The conferees discussed the completion of a project named "The Fulfillment of the Leader's Promise" [wafa' al-qa'id]. This project will transfer sweet water from the Euphrates River in the Bad'ah area north of al-Nasiriyah to the city of al-Basrah via a special canal that will be 111 km long.

During the debate on this grand project, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn asserted that the completion of this project should not be viewed as a gesture made by the leadership to the residents of al-Basrah, because the residents of al-Basrah are generous people. They held out in the glorious battle of al-Qadisiyah and the immortal Mother of Battles, the leader president added.

Having debated the project, the Council of Ministers endorsed its projected allocations. The project also calls for improving the water distribution network inside the city of al-Basrah. The conferees decided to form a committee of competent agencies under the chairmanship of the housing and reconstruction minister, and to appropriately empower this committee so it may implement the entire project.

Furthermore, the Council of Ministers debated the topics listed on its agenda, which included several organizational and financial issues, and adopted the necessary decisions and measures regarding them.

Vice President Receives Visiting Italians

JN0310180695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1600 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan received here today an Italian National Alliance Party delegation headed by deputy Francesco Carello.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed longstanding Iraqi-Italian relations and the positive results they have achieved for both the Iraqi and Italian people and their mutual benefit, thus consolidating the broad ties of friendship and cooperation between the countries.

He referred to the continued meetings between officials from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Italian National Alliance and between officials from the Iraqi National Assembly and the Italian Parliament and other organizations and unions. He said those meetings prove the strength of relations between the people and their continued cooperation to achieve their joint noble objectives and to resist colonialist and hegemonic policies and intervention in other nations' domestic affairs.

The head of the Italian National Alliance Party delegation stressed that the continued blockade against the

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people of Iraq is a violation of international laws and conventions, describing it as the crime of the age and a violation of human rights. He indicated that Italian and world opinion have discovered the dimensions of this U.S.-led blockade to achieve aggressive U.S. objectives against Iraq.

Opposition Comments on New Special Protection Chief

JN0310150395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The despot continues his efforts to stop the deterioration of his regime through various changes of positions and appointments among the members of his criminal gang. In this context, our sources from Baghdad said criminal Fadil Sulayfij al-'Azzawi, Saddam's cousin, was appointed as head of Special Protection. The post was held by Saddam's son-in-law, Saddam kamil, who defected to Amman.

The decision highlights Saddam's increasing fears of assassination attempts which restrict his movement inside Baghdad.

Criminal Sulayfij has held various posts, including: Head of the General Intelligence agency, governor of Tikrit, and Iraq's ambassador to India. He is close to the ruling family, given his criminal role against our people.

Health Minister Meets Counterparts in Cairo

JN0210213095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (INA) — On the sidelines of the 42d session of the WHO's regional committee for north of the Mediterranean, Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak met here today with several Arab and foreign health ministers.

The health minister met separately with the health ministers of Qatar, Libya, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Cyprus. He also met with the head of the Omani delegation.

Dr. Umid Midhat briefed the health ministers on the impact of the unjust blockade on Iraq, its heath institutions, and medical requirements. He also told them about the shortages in food and medicine which directly affect health care.

The Iraqi health minister urged Arab and international health establishments to undertake their professional and moral duties to end the unjust blockade and enable Iraq to import its humanitarian needs so as to alleviate the suffering of its people.

The meetings were attended by Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League.

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Peres on U.S. Jewry; Relations With Tunis, Egypt

TA0210080595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will address the UN General Assembly this evening. The foreign minister is devoting his New York visit to meetings with Arab foreign ministers and local Jewish leaders. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports:

[Begin recording] [Zissowitz] Although the meeting with the Orthodox rabbis was held against the backdrop of the harsh remarks the prime minister made about U.S. Jewry, the remarks were not even mentioned in the discussion. The rabbis asked about several issues, mainly the harsh treatment of the settlers, the arrest of Rabbi Riskin, and 'Arafat's avoiding amendment of the Palestinian Covenant.

Foreign Minister Peres answered each question at length and, despite the disagreements, the atmosphere was good. Peres was later asked about the prime minister's comments about U.S. Jews who oppose the agreement.

[Peres] While in Washington, the prime minister criticized U.S. Jewish leaders over one issue — going to the Capitol — in which he is 100 percent right.

[Zissowitz] What about the expression he used — anathema — to describe some members of the U.S. Jewish community?

[Peres] Look, a style is a personal thing. What they do, however, is quite irritating.

[Zissowitz] The meetings with Jewish leaders will continue today. The foreign minister's agenda also includes a long series of meetings with Arab foreign ministers, including countries that have no relations with Israel. Progress was made with Oman: reciprocal chambers of commerce were opened, but diplomatic relations will not be established for the time being with either Oman or Tunis.

[Peres] They have real problems. For example, trade between Tunis and Libya stands at an annual rate of $1 billion and they are afraid to risk it. There are tens of thousands of Tunisian workers in Libya. I mean, everyone has his own considerations and stomach aches.

[Zissowitz] A meeting already held was with the Egyptian foreign minister, in which the issue of the killing of the Egyptian POW's was raised again. Mr. Peres received the impression that Egypt would like to put an end to this affair.

[Peres] We want to conclude it in a respectable manner that would allow President Mubarak to show his public opinion that Israel met him part of the way, which is understood.

[Zissowitz] One meeting will not take place, that with the Syrian foreign minister. Al-Shar' will be arriving in New York and Washington this week, and will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The time for a meeting with Peres, so he declared, has not come yet. [end recording]

Rabin, Jordanian Envoy React to Settlers' Protests

TA0210152395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reacted to the settlers demonstration in the Jordan Rift Valley. Rabin said no changes had been made in the maps agreed upon between Israel and the Palestinians with regard to the Jordan Rift Valley. The prime minister posited that there would be no Palestinian police stations throughout the Jordan Rift Valley. Rabin explained that the Jericho area transferred to Palestinian control had been expanded by only an additional 10 percent, comprising a mere 6-7 square km. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordanian ambassador to Israel, said that the demonstration by Jordan Rift Valley settlers on the Jordanian side of the border constituted an illegal act. The Jordanian envoy asserted that his country could not countenance such actions. He told our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus that any protests should be conducted within the framework of the law. The ambassador said Jordan will not get involved as long as its sovereignty is not harmed.

IDF Briefs Settlers on Accord, Road Closures

TA0310053695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command told the leaders of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip yesterday that the IDF would close off the major roads in the cities of Judaea and Samaria to Israelis during the first three months of the implementation of the interim accord.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Major General Biran told the settler officials that if they nevertheless attempted to use these roads, the IDF would arrest them.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the settlers said that at the meeting they had received clarifications on almost all of their questions about the agreement,

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except for those issues the IDF defined as classified. The meeting with the commander of the Central Command lasted approximately four hours. It was also attended by the IDF commander in Judaea and Samaria, the commander of the Israel Police Samaria and Judaea District, and other officers.

Uri Ari'el, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, said that on several issues, the participants heard new clarifications which indicated a deterioration in their security situation. Ari'el noted that the settlers had been told that from now on, Palestinian policemen would be able to ask Israeli drivers on the Jericho road to present identification papers, something which had not happened until now.

The IDF has closed off the town of Qalqilyah to Israelis until Thursday [5 October] morning. Yesterday, two masked men fired shots at a car belonging to an Israeli vegetable merchant. The car was hit but its passengers were unharmed. A woman was injured by stones thrown at an Israeli car near the settlement of Betar yesterday.

Roadblock Removed in Confidence-Building Measure

TA0210090395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has removed the roadblock at Hazekhukhit Junction near Hebron, and placed soldiers who will be standing guard near concrete cubicles. Military sources say that soldiers will remain present at the junction, but that this will not be permanent.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that the roadblock was removed following the decision to introduce confidence-building measures in Hebron, as promised in the interim agreement.

The Palestinians are also demanding that Israel open two main roads in Hebron.

Jews Concerned About Plan To Open Hebron Roads

TA0110194195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Oct 95

[Correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The heads of the Jewish community in Hebron threaten to use every means at their disposal to prevent the opening of the closed roads in Hebron. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] plans to open these roads to ease the movement of Palestinians in the city. Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni today visited Hebron to express support for what he termed the just demands of the Arab residents. Meanwhile, thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews visited the Cave of the Patriarchs today to hold repentance prayers on the eve of Yom Kippur. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports from Hebron:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Kohen] The heads of the Jewish community in Hebron are concerned about the IDF's intention to reopen roads closed to Palestinian since the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre:

[No'am Arnon, spokesman of the Hebron Jewish community] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will direct thousands of cars with tens of thousands of terrorists to these roads, something that will create daily friction with our only outlet. Cases of stabbing and terrorism have taken occurred in this place in the past. If they want to create daily friction between terrorists and Jews, this is the way to do it.

[Kohen] The Palestinians say that the opening of the main road in the city to traffic will perhaps serve as the first indication that Israel intends to implement the agreement with the Palestinian Authority. [passage omitted]

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah today hosted Egypt's ambassador in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, who came to express the support of his country for the residents of Hebron. [passage omitted]

Basyuni toured the city in order to observe the points of friction between Jews and Arabs in Hebron. Like many others who visited the place before him, he gained the impression that it will be very difficult to implement the solution offered by the Taba agreement to the difficult situation in the city. [end recording]

Minister on Expropriation, Future Building Plans

TA0210100495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Yosi Torpstein and Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Municipality of Jerusalem has decided to expropriate 380 dunams of East Jerusalem land for the construction of a road section. This is the first land expropriation since the attempt to confiscate 535 dunams in the areas of Bayt Safafa and Ramot in April 1995, which was put on ice in the wake of international pressure on the Israeli Government.

Several days ago, Palestinian residents of the Bayt Hanina and Shu'fat neighborhoods in East Jerusalem received notices from the Jerusalem Municipality informing them of the expropriation of their lands. The total

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land planned for confiscation in these neighborhoods stands at 380 dunams.

These plots lie west of Pisgat Ze'ev, between 'Anata in the south and Neve Ya'aqov in the north. Furthermore, the authorities will demolish 16 houses on the expropriated land, some of which had been built without permits. The municipal notices advised the residents that the expropriation was required for "public needs."

This expropriation decision is not new. It was made by the local planning and construction committee, which is made up of Jerusalem Municipality councilmen, at the time they decided to approve plan No. 3774 for the construction of a section of Highway No. 1 in northern Jerusalem. In 1994, the residents appealed the decision before the District Planning and Construction Committee, but their appeal was rejected. The plan was conclusively approved in March 1995.

As a result, local landowners filed a suit against the expropriation in the district court, which has not ruled on the matter to date. The landowners submitted an alternative plan to the court and the municipality, which they claimed was better than the municipal plan as it would save a great deal of money and prevent land expropriation. Their proposal had been drafted by a Palestinian city planner. [passage omitted]

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer yesterday reiterated his hope that before the end of 1995, his ministry would start building and marketing the Har Homa housing project, a Jewish neighborhood about to be built in the area of the divide between Jerusalem's municipal territory and areas that are to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority.

Addressing a workshop on the issue of Jerusalem lands, Ben Eli'ezer said: "The plans for the construction of Har Homa are being discussed by the planning committees, and I hope they will be approved and that we can start building by the end of the year."

The planned Har Homa neighborhood has aroused opposition both in the Palestinian Authority, whose leaders believe it will practically invalidate any future discussion of the status of Jerusalem, and in the Israeli left wing. The Meretz faction in the Jerusalem Municipal Council and the Society for Jerusalem have approached Ben- Eli'ezer and demanded that the plans for the new neighborhood be aborted.

Addressing the workshop yesterday, the construction and housing minister tried to discount the political significance of the planned neighborhood's establishment. "We are going to build in Har Homa, just as we will in Bet Kerem," he said.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer further said, however: "Having signed the interim agreement, we are moving on to the discussion of the permanent arrangement, and Jerusalem will be one of the toughest crucial issues on the agenda. I think we should continue building in the city and in Greater Jerusalem in a way that will strengthen the city and its surrounding areas at a rate that will meet the needs both of the Jewish and the Arab sectors."

The minister spoke of the construction of hundreds of apartments in Ma'ale Adumim, in Betar, which lies beyond the Green Line, and Bet Shemesh and the Zur Hadassa area.

"There is no need for us to demonstratively accelerate the rate of construction right now, in order to create faits accomplis," Ben- Eli'ezer added. "The city will remain united in any event, even 'united plus,' after a permanent arrangement is achieved. There is the broadest national consensus on that."

The minister announced that under an agreement he had reached with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, the necessary infrastructures for the construction of 4,500 new housing units for Jerusalem's Arab residents will be built with joint financing.

'Source' Doubts Iraq Supports Peace Process

TA0210095895 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Oct 95 p 1

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The remarks by Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz were mere lip service. There is no real proof that Iraq is changing its stand regarding the peace process. This remark was made by a senior Foreign Ministry source to an ITIM correspondent.

The source was referring to an interview the deputy Iraqi prime minister gave the French daily LE FIGARO, in which he said that Iraq does not oppose the peace agreement, nor does it intend to foil the entire political process because this would contradict Iraqi national interests.

The ITIM correspondent has learned that senior Foreign Ministry echelons have recently expressed a similar view. This view was expressed in several assessments, oral and written, made in the framework of a broader evaluation of international reactions to the Israeli-Palestinian interim arrangement.

The source claimed that Tariq 'Aziz's remarks were not supported by the Iraqi media, which has remained hostile to the process in general and to Israel in particular. "Since the Iraqi media are fully controlled

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by Saddam and his men," the source said, "I am certain that had a real change taken place in the Iraqi views, it would have been expressed by the Iraqi press and television."

The source added: "It seems that Saddam is simply using the talent and experience of his No. 1 diplomat to deliver statements that would soften the Western countries' stands and influence them to call off the sanctions imposed on Iraq."

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Writer Detained for Claim Officials Bribed by Iraq

JN0410081795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Natasha Bukhari]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — In an unprecedented move, a public prosecutor yesterday ordered the detention of the Amman correspondent of the London-based al-Hayah Arabic daily for allegedly violating the law in a report last week claiming that some Jordanian journalists and officials were on the payroll of the Iraqi regime.

"The prosecutor general issued a detention order for 14 days and rejected bail attempts," a legal source said, adding that the Al-Hayah correspondent, Salamah Ni'mat, was being investigated for charges of violating the Press and Publications Law as well as slander and libel against public officials.

Mr. Ni'mat was Tuesday [3 October] summoned for investigation over his Sept. 20 article in which he quoted unnamed "official sources" as saying that the government was investigating "allegations that 42 journalists, former and current officials are being bribed by Baghdad to create a Jordanian movement to counter Jordan's support for a change in the Iraqi regime."

In accordance with the Press and Publications Law, Mr. Ni'mat allegedly "(overlooked) accuracy, honesty and objectivity in commenting on events or news as well as harming national unity, inciting crime and planting the seeds of hatred and division among members of the society."

According to the Al-Hayah report, the list of those on the payroll of the Iraqi regime included journalists, columnists, former senior officials and a current minister.

The report elicited strong criticism from some journalists and columnists, some of whom demanded that Al-Hayah and its Amman correspondent be sued for defamation.

Prosecutor Jamal al-Zu'bi launched his investigation on Sunday [1 October] and listened to the testimonies of two leading journalists, Tariq Masarwah, who was the first to react to the report unfavorably, and head of the Jordanian Press Association (JPA) Sulayman al-Qudah.

One day after the article was published in Al-Hayah, Mr. Masarwah demanded in his daily column in Al-Ra'y that Mr. Ni'mat and Al-Hayah be taken to court, and said that he was planning to do so himself.

"We will go to court to find out who these 'informed sources' and 'official sources' who have relayed to Al-Hayah the government's concern over the Iraqi regime," Mr. Masarwah wrote. [sentence as published]

In his report, Mr. Ni'mat wrote that "Iraqi institutions are trying to recruit Jordanian journalists and writers and working on winning over all forces that support the Iraqi regime by giving money or gift [as published] or paying direct salaries."

Under the current Press and Publications Law, reporters should reveal their sources if the court decides "this would protect national security, prevent crime or attain justice."

If found guilty, Mr. Ni'mat could face fines and imprisonment.

The controversial report came after the defection to Jordan of Iraqi top military weapons' expert Husayn Kamil, and his call from here for overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

But the detention of Mr. Ni'mat caught most journalists by surprise, especially that it took place prior to referring the case to court and pressing charges against the defendant.

It was not yet known why Mr. Ni'mat was denied bail; judicial sources refused to comment on the issue.

But Mr. Ni'mat's lawyer, Ayman Abu-Sharkh, was quoted by international news agencies as saying he was trying to appeal against the prosecutor's decision and to seek his release on bail.

Meanwhile, the Paris-based Reporters Without Frontiers organization appealed to His Majesty King Husayn to "use (his) influence to rescind the detention measure" against Mr. Ni'mat.

"This detention of (14) days appears too excessive in relation to the charges being investigated against him," the appeal, a copy of which was sent to the Jordan Times, said.

Arrested Reporter Accused of 'Inciting Crimes'

MM0410083495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "AL-HAYAH Correspondent in Jordan Arrested Because of report on 'Iraqi Infiltration'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Washington, AL-HAYAH — Amman's public prosecutor has ordered the arrest for two weeks of AL-HAYAH's correspondent in Jordan, Salamah Ni'mat. And he refused to free him on bail, accusing him of "slander and defamation and of harming national unity and inciting crimes, also

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of failing to ensure accuracy, honesty, and objectivity when commenting on reports and events." The reason is a report he published in AL-HAYAH about "Iraqi infiltration of Jordan."

AL-HAYAH published a report by Salamah Ni'mat on 20 September citing informed official and other sources. The report said that the Jordanian authorities were seeking through large-scale investigations to uncover the scale of Iraqi infiltration of informational establishments and trade companies in Jordan." [passage omitted]

Scale of Iraqi 'Infiltration' Investigated

MM0410084595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Fears of Iraqi Infiltration"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — The Jordanian authorities yesterday sought at various levels to assess an extensive media campaign launched by Iraq to create a Jordanian tendency opposed to the official position toward the Iraqi regime. AL-HAYAH has learned that the Jordanian authorities are seeking through large-scale investigations to uncover the scale of the Iraqi infiltration of informational establishments and trade companies in Jordan. Informed sources have said that official Jordanian quarters have discovered that many imaginary companies registered in Jordan "are working for Iraqi officials." They also revealed that "Iraqi quarters are trying to recruit writers and journalists and to incite all the forces loyal to the Iraqi regime by offering donations and gifts with a view to creating a Jordanian tendency opposed to the official position." [passage omitted]

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Junblatt Supports Extension of al-Hirawi's Term

NC0310122795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minister of Refugee Affairs Walid Junblatt visited the B'abda Palace today to invite President Ilyas al-Hirawi to sponsor a reconciliation [between returning Christians and Druze inhabitants] in Ma'asir al-Shuf on 15 October. Minister Junblatt reconfirmed his support for the extension of the presidential term and for the amendment of one article of the Constitution. He said: The government has a job and so does the army, which, however, must not get involved in politics and must remain in reserve for internal security. [passage omitted]

Arab Position on 'Palestine,' Jerusalem Lamented

NC0410111995 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Nabil Khuri: "In the Matter of the Homeland"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the future we will weep over Palestine more than we have wept over Andalusia, despite the rivers of tears we have shed over Granada. The basic difference is that Andalusia was an Arab colony while Palestine is an Arab homeland. Granada was and will remain a beautiful city while Jerusalem is a sacred city.

The mother of 'Abdallah al-Saghir, the last Arab caliph in Andalusia, told him as he was over Granada: "Weep like women over a lost kingdom; you have failed to keep it as men ought to do." The mother was grieving over a kingdom, not territory or a homeland. We entered it as occupiers and left it vanquished at the hand of its inhabitants.

Jerusalem was the first qiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in praying] before we entered it. The Arab Prophet journeyed to it. The Arabs came to it as pilgrims and established in it a homeland. It has the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine.

The "homeland" in Jerusalem did not become a "homeland" in Granada. It is true that the Arabs established justice, tolerance, and mercy in Granada, but for the people of Granada it remained the justice of the "occupier," the tolerance of the "occupier," and the mercy of the "occupier." [passage omitted]

In Jerusalem we triumphed over the Crusaders because we were defending and liberating a homeland. In Granada we were defeated because we were defending a colony. The Jews defeated us in Jerusalem because (rightly or wrongly) they believed they were returning to a homeland over which they had been grieving for 2,000 years until they regained it. We lost Jerusalem because we did not defend it as a homeland but as a city.

The Jews have not forgotten the graves of their prophets after thousands of years. We have forgotten the fresh graves of our martyrs. From the beginning the Jews realized that land makes a homeland, while we want to make a homeland by giving up the land.

We have been dogged with "fatigue" after less than half of a century of demanding our legitimate, clear, and historic rights. The Jews have not tired of demanding a "right" that is essentially false. "Philosophers" have appeared among us philosophizing defeat, concessions, and fait accompli. The Jews wrote our new history with the sword while we forgot the sword and the old and new history together. They bequeath victory to their children while we bequeath defeat to our children. [passage omitted]

Our friend Clovis Maqsud wrote an article from the United States on the eve of the signing of the Taba accord in Washington. He pleaded with the Arab guests of the White House: If photos are necessary, at least please avoid smiling! And yet, they smiled!

Hizballah Claims Murders of 3 SLA Members

NC0310203995 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Three people working in the pro-Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] civil administration were killed as their Mercedes was passing on the Bayt Yahun-Kunin road in the western sector.

Hizballah claimed responsibility for the operation, which according to its statement, had inflicted four casualties. Shortly afterward, Israeli helicopters raked Bayt Yahun and nearby valleys, dropping flares. The Israeli forces bombarded several areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially al-Wadi al-Akhdar and al-Jabal al-Rafi'.

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Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0310191195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today gave a speech before the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in which he said: At the beginning of my speech, I would like to congratulate you and your friendly country, Portugal, on your election as president of the General Assembly. We are confident that your experience, wisdom, and good management will help ensure the success of this session. We assure you that the Syrian delegation will cooperate with you to realize the sought goals. I also thank your predecessor Mr. 'Ammar 'Awfa for his diligent efforts during his presidency of the previous session.

He added: On this occasion, we would like to express our appreciation to the UN secretary general for his efforts to bolster the stature and role of the UN and his painstaking efforts to draw world attention to the major issues at this stage.

He said: The present General Assembly session has a great significance in the history of the United Nations because it coincides with the 50th anniversary of establishing this world organization, which remains, despite any criticism, an organization unmatched in the history of international relations. It is a house that brings together representatives of various countries, friends and enemies and foes and allies, on the basis of commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. Foremost of these purposes and principles are maintenance of world peace and security, respect for basic rights of man and countries, small and big alike, emphasis of equality in these rights, non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, and confrontation of aggression in accordance with the principles of justice and international law.

He added: We believe the problem of the UN does not lie in the purposes and principles of the Charter, but rather in the mechanism of decision-making in it and in the selectivity in implementing these resolutions. The serious financial straits from which the UN suffers reflects, in fact, nothing more than a political crisis which is mainly about the UN identity and its role in the post-cold war era.

He said: The question that should be raised here is: Does this organization actually express the aspirations of the peoples of its member states as stipulated in the opening phrase in its Charter — which reads: We the peoples of the United Nations? Is it not both odd and surprising to hear that these countries which have the largest population or area complain, despite that they are permanent UN members, about interference in their internal affairs?

He asserted: In light of this, will it be possible to introduce significant democratic reforms to the structure of the UN — reforms that will be accepted by and satisfactory to the member states, be they small or big, rich or poor, or located in the North or South? Or is it that the democracy of majority according to which national decisions are made is not appropriate for decision-making inside the United Nations and in international relations?

He said: At any rate, we are not living in an ideal world. If we aspire to have such a world, then we are confident that constructive international dialogue and cooperation must be launched. Such dialogue should ensure the introduction of reforms in form and substance — reforms that would meet the aspirations of member states and address the problems and needs of developing countries, foremost of which is easing the burden of their indebtedness, pooling investments there, giving their goods access to markets, and lifting any restrictions on the transfer of modern and nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to them. Above all, these countries should be dealt with, in terms of political, humanitarian, and cultural issues, through dialogue that is based on mutual respect and non-interference in domestic affairs. This is the appropriate and safest way that would establish international cooperation in a human manner — a cooperation that would serve the interests of all and help us reach a more secure, stable, and prosperous world.

He touched on the international developments since the beginning of the 1990's. He said: Despite their enormous results and strong repercussions, these developments cannot change the basic principles and values which man struggled to attain and adhere to since the dawn of history. Right cannot turn into wrong overnight. Equality cannot turn into hegemony, racism cannot become a virtue, and the occupation of lands through force cannot have any legitimacy.

He went on to say: We are living in an area that is the cradle of the three divine religions and human civilizations. We have deep roots in this region. We are reading, hearing, and witnessing how Israel is trying to falsify history and the geography of this region and the accomplishments of its people. We also see how it tries to mislead public opinion and convince it that its democracy and laws determine the fate of the occupied Arab lands and not the principles of international legitimacy and UN resolutions, which consider Israel's annexation of Jerusalem and the application of its laws on Jerusalem as null and void. These resolutions also

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call for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands to accomplish a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Israel's failure to abide by UN resolutions despite the negotiations that have been underway for four years is a challenge for Arabs as well as for the entire international community, particularly the Security Council and its relevant resolutions.

The recent developments in the peace process have proved that Israel's rulers do not seek a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace that would put an end to conflict, occupation, and settlement activity and ensure security and stability for all. They focused most of their attention on grabbing signatures from their interlocutors on hundreds of pages and maps that harm the Palestinian people after all the dear sacrifices they have offered. This puts the Palestinian people on an endless track of loss and agony instead of putting them on a clear road of liberation and independence.

He added: These agreements that will lead to an endless series of negotiations and agreements will not, we believe, withstand the test of the final agreement because each agreement carries the seeds of tension and conflict.

Further on Speech

JN0310203795 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Oct 95 [Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that the international developments the world has been witnessing since the early 1990's cannot, despite their enormous results and strong repercussions, change the basic principles and values which man struggled to attain and adhere to since the dawn of history. [passage omitted]

This came in Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's' speech before the 50th session of the UN General Assembly this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' stressed: Since the Oslo agreement was signed, Syria has not supported the agreements with Israel; nor has it sought to cripple them. As we reiterate this position today, we say that using these agreements to violate Syria's national and pan-Arab interests and rights will prompt us to reconsider this position.

The foreign minister said the U.S. initiative, on the basis of which the Madrid Conference was held, stressed that its goal is the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. In its assurances to Syria, the United States said it does not support Israel's annexation of a single inch of the Golan lands occupied in 1967.

He added: According to these foundations, Syria opened the door for peace at the Madrid Conference. It will continue to adhere to these bases which essentially mean a constant U.S. commitment to Syria's basic rights and interests. The strength of this U.S. commitment is not affected by some Arab parties' violation of the Madrid formula, about which the U.S. sponsor should care most.

Al-Shar' asserted: Contrary to Israel's allegations, the Madrid formula and the U.S. initiative did not provide for secret talks and did not stipulate any specifications on the level of negotiators. Had this not been the case, it would not have been necessary at all to hold the Madrid Conference.

He further stated: Syria and the Arab countries expect the United States, in its capacity as the sponsor of the peace process, to fulfill its obligations to Syria and Lebanon and to work on removing the obstacles which Israel continues to place along the road to a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This just and comprehensive peace includes Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan back to 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

The foreign minister announced Syria's commitment to peace according to the bases from which the peace process was launched and not according to other foundations or formulas which only seek to appease Israel's haughtiness and consecrate its hegemony without accomplishing the aspirations of the people of the region for dignity, security, and stability.

Al-Shar' said: Israel can deceive some people some of the time, but it cannot deceive everyone all of the time. He noted: Negotiations between Syria and Israel during the past four years have disclosed that Israel wants negotiations only for the purpose of procrastination and shirking the requirements of peace. It also seeks to use these negotiations to impose its conditions which contradict the letter and spirit of relevant Security Council resolutions. This is the real reason for the stumbling of negotiations on the Syrian track.

The foreign minister added: False peace will not have access to a single Syrian house despite all the Israeli challenges and obstacles. He stressed that the Syrian people know very well that Arabs, Muslims, and all people that have faith in justice and peace firmly support Syria and its leader President Hafiz al-Asad in the battle for a just and comprehensive peace — the real peace which the people will embrace with dignity.

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Al-Shar' on 'Objective' UN Speech, Peace Process

NC0310201995 London MBC Television in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Oct 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by MBC correspondent Rula Amin in New York on 3 October—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Amin] Don't you think that your speech [at the UN General Assembly] was contentious?

[Al-Shar'] It was objective; the speech was objective. We dealt with everything without any exaggeration. I described things as they really are. I concluded that the negotiations during the past four years were futile.

[Amin] But why this contentious stand now? Is it so futile? Are you reconsidering your stand on all negotiations, or on the Oslo Accord, or on all negotiations with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] Syria has a land which is occupied. Israel must withdraw from all the Golan, to the pre-4 June 1967 lines and from south Lebanon.

[Amin] Is this an attempt to exclude the possibility of reaching any agreement prior to the U.S. and Israeli elections?

[Al-Shar'] We are not in a position to say that the negotiations have finally failed. But we can say that this stage of negotiations was not successful and has brought the negotiations to a deadlock. The U.S. sponsor should act and make real efforts, because after all it is a U.S. initiative. The Madrid Conference's formula, which was agreed upon, did not stipulate secret negotiations, which we reject, nor did it specify the level of negotiators. Israel is trying to create things not included in the Madrid framework to mislead the world and Arab public that Syria is the one which is not accepting the formulas that have been accepted by others so that the peace process may forge ahead. While it is Israel which is setting pre-conditions such as the secret negotiations, its attempts to promote the level of negotiations and to retreat from a security understanding which we agreed upon regarding equality in the security arrangements between Syria and Israel when it withdraws to the pre-4 June lines. The agreement also stipulates that these arrangements should be equal and parallel on the two sides of the pre-4 June lines.

[Amin] Are you accusing the United States of neglecting the Syrian-lebanese track?

[Al-Shar'] I cannot say that the United States has neglected the Syrian track. The United States is asked to step up and intensify its efforts and shoulder its responsibility as a sponsor of the peace process and also as a basic owner of the initiative. This initiative either fails or succeeds, and in both cases the responsibility will be shouldered by the United States.

Taba Agreement, 'Partial Deals' Opposed

JN0310144095 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Oct 95 p 9

[From the "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Muhammad 'Ali Buzah: "Syria Does Not Emulate Anybody"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration, through Dennis Ross, special coordinator of the Middle East peace process, reiterated that it has unmistakable evidence that Syria is serious in its commitment to the peace process. However, while hosting the Washington carnival of signing the Oslo B accord, which was concluded outside the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and the resolutions of international legitimacy and in complete disregard of the land-for-peace formula, this administration did not say in no uncertain terms that it was asking for a similar commitment and sincerity of approach to peace efforts from the Israeli rulers on the basis of the well-known guidelines that set the peace process in motion; namely, UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. It left the matter to be decided by another tour of the region by chief U.S. diplomat Warren Christopher. This tour may take place within the next two weeks. During this tour, Christopher will resume his mediation efforts to get the peace process on the Syrian track moving, and to make progress that will end the current impasse and remove the obstacles created by Tel Aviv, which promoted tension, consternation, and heightened instability, which are far removed from a state of peace.

Despite the fresh U.S. assertion of Syria's importance and central role in making peace and of the impossibility of achieving peace without its involvement, which might be viewed by some as a statement aimed at reassuring Syria politically and at motivating it to remain engaged in this process regardless of the difficulties entailed and in spite of the adverse positions of the Israeli side, and also as an attempt to peddle the new deal, which was to Israel's advantage and to the detriment of the Palestinian people and their national rights, because it legitimized the annexation and Judaization of the occupied Palestinian territories, optimism over the possibility of achieving success and making a breakthrough in the real and palpable sense of the word on the Syrian track soon is a figment of the imagination and a product of illusions. This is because the world has realized, by firsthand knowledge regarding the negotiations, that Israel is neither qualified to make peace nor desirous of just and comprehensive peace. Its record testifies to the authenticity of this claim.

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We do not play down the efforts of the U.S. cosponsor or undermine anyone's right, but we are talking about a fact that has been established throughout the five decades of the conflict, including over four years which were spent in vain. Washington, which is authorized by the international community, could not wrist anything of what Israel has usurped from the Arabs by force and aggression. It could not even make Israel comply with the charters and resolutions of international legitimacy. The situation will not be better if the Israeli policy and stands continue as they are, based on intransigence and rejection, and if the partial deals continue to be the objective Israel tirelessly seeks to achieve.

Israel has procrastinated and maneuvered for a long time, and has used quarrels and aggression to reinforce its negotiating position and to obtain further concessions from the Arabs. It has also evaded peace on various pretexts, the least of which is that it can not take more than an agreement on the same front, and that the United States, others, and the peace process should wait. The real state of affairs now says that the new agreement will be used by Israel as a pretext to procrastinate in implementing it over a period which could take tens of years as Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in his reply to a question about the issue of a Palestinian state which provides him with a cover to continue to evade the peace process, to disavow peace obligations and requirements on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and to deepen the impasse of the peace process. This is if the U.S. Administration does not close the door for Israel's maneuverings, end its intransigence, and put the Tel Aviv rulers on the right path of peace and its requirements.

One must not forget that Syria cannot be squeezed. Neither does it follow anyone's example regarding national and pan-Arab issues. Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace which regains land and rights in full and guarantees the full implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy. Certainly, it is not the peace of others or the peace of the partial solutions and deals which carry the seeds of their own death.

Government 'Will Never Relinquish' Land, Rights

JN0310173195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 3 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Prior to the Christopher-al-Shar' Washington meeting, which will pave the way for the U.S. secretary of state's new round of talks in the region, Israel began to escalate its well-known blackmail policy by speaking of a huge disparity in the Syrian and Israeli positions. Israel advised the U.S. secretary of state not come to the Middle East before positive indications emerge on Syria's part. According to Rabin, these indications are manifested in Syria's acceptance of the principle of setting up an early-warning station in the Golan and the resumption of military experts' talks.

We would like to point out that Israel, through its foreign minister, had voiced its readiness to resume the talks in Washington without any preconditions. Now, it is imposing preconditions such as the ones mentioned above. It is clear to the most naive of observers that Israel is evading peace with Syria because it will not, in any way, be similar to Israel's peace with the Palestinians or even close to it.

Syria adheres to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. These bases require the return of all the Golan and the Israeli forces comprehensive withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. Syria, as is known to all, has totally refused all sorts of Israeli presence in the Golan. It insisted on the principle of equitability [takafu'] in any agreed arrangements. This means that Syrian-Israeli peace, if realized, will be an honorable peace that eliminates all traces of occupation and ends all Israeli hegemony plans and expansionist schemes under pretexts of security. This will reflect on the region as a whole and will have an impact on the other peace tracks.

The current Israeli Government did not abandon its expansionist schemes and is competing with the extremist right wing. It places obstacles and impediments along the path of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, which are inseparable, hoping that Syria will go back on its declared position. That is why Israel exercises pressure on President Clinton's Administration to diminish its peace efforts, and thus jeopardize the entire peace process.

It has become evident to all and to the various international circles, that peace with Syria is a basic element in the Middle East peace process. Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, announced clearly that Israeli's agreements with the Palestinians are extremely fragile, and may not be able to stand fast before events and changes. He said that there is no alternative to peace with Syria and to submitting to Syria's demand of restoring all of the Golan and Israel's full withdrawal.

By placing obstacles before the Syrian track, Israel is exposing the entire peace process to collapse, because Syria will never relinquish its land or the rights of its citizens no mater how long this will take. It will not retreat one inch from its objective of realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Syria will not yield to blackmail or bargain over the future of the

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Golan. It adheres to the Security Council resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy. It does not see any solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict outside the framework of these resolutions and principles.

In the final analysis, peace is not worth its name if it does not meet the fair Arab demands and their legitimate rights.

U.S. Urged To Rehabilitate Impartial Role

JN0310154795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the Syrian track of negotiations and the regional peace process against the backdrop of the assertion made by U.S. President Bill Clinton that there is a need to activate the Syrian track to establish a comprehensive peace in the region, saying: The activation of this track is impossible to achieve without an effort. The prerequisites for such a reactivation must be made available first. Washington must rehabilitate its pledge to play the role of an honest, unbiased, and vigorous partner, and to work to promote the interests of all negotiating sides with impartiality.

TISHRIN warns against the dangers posed by the continuous efforts of the Rabin government to wreck the impartiality of U.S. initiatives, citing the statement made by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that U.S. policy has suffered repeated setbacks due to Israel's refusal to demonstrate flexibility in the peace talks. TISHRIN explains that the party really seeking peace does not hold on to the others' territory. Likewise, the party seeking peace neither plans to impose its hegemony nor makes available the requirements of anti-Arab aggression.

TISHRIN holds Israel responsible for the obstacles standing in the way of just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper reiterates that Syria has spared no effort to render the peace process a success. It has accepted U.S. initiatives and paved the way for the establishment of peace in the region.

TISHRIN concludes by urging the rehabilitation of the U.S. role of an honest and impartial partner to remove Israel's obstacles and defuse the mines Israel has placed on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Kuwaiti Parliamentary Delegation

JN0210161095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation at 1100 today. The delegation was made up of Dr. Ya'qub Muhammad Hayati, head of the Syrian-Kuwaiti Parliamentary Fraternity Committee and member of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee [LLAC] at the Kuwaiti National Assembly; and Shari' al-Nasir al-'Ajami, rapporteur of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's LLAC.

The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with relations between the fraternal countries.

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Afghanistan

Diplomat in Iran Accuses U.S. of 'Interference'

LD0310185695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Khorasani, the Afghan embassy's charge d'affaires in Tehran, described as important and great Iran's efforts for and role in the restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. In an interview with the foreign affairs correspondent of Iran's radio and television, Mr. Khorasani accused some countries including the United States of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said: The arrogant powers do not want peace and stability in his country. He insisted that peace and security in Afghanistan is in the interest of the region's countries. Mr. Khorasani named the Taleban as the cause of fighting in Afghanistan. On the delaying of the Taleban attack on the government positions in Kabul, he said: This group's forces are incapable of attacking Kabul and the people of Afghanistan have resisted any kind of aggression.

He also said: Over the past 15 days a cease-fire has been in force between Dostam's National Islamic Movement forces and those of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and over this period no side has attacked the positions of the other. The charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy in Iran once again declared his government's unconditional readiness to hold talks with all opposition groups in order to put an end to fighting in Afghanistan. He said: The Afghan government is ready to agree with the opposition on a cease-fire.

Lafra'i Assails Bhutto for 'Blatant Interference'

LD0310203595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], as an independent and free country, has the right to establish diplomatic relations with every country.

This point was mentioned today, in the course of an interview with Bakhtar by esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs. The ISA wants to restore friendly relations with all countries of the world and in particular with the countries of the region. This policy is based on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of one another.

Concerning the recent utterance on Afghanistan by Ms Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan and foreign minister of that country, he said: Ms Bhutto's utterance which was published in THE NEWS daily, is a blatant interference in the internal affairs of our country. Ms Bhutto thus wants to disguise open interference by the government of Pakistan in Afghanistan's affairs.

In carrying out demonstrations and holding meetings, the Muslim people of Afghanistan have expressed their unreserved support for the Islamic sovereignty and the independent policy of the government. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the ISA expresses its profound regret over the utterance of such an irresponsible statement and calls on the people of Pakistan and the political parties of this country to prevent interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan by the intelligence service and other Pakistani circles.

In reply to another question Dr Lafra'i said: The ISA, in exposing the Pakistani circles' intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, in fact wants to force the government of Pakistan to take the necessary measures to stop the intervention. However, unfortunately we see that the government of Ms Bhutto has a part in this adventure on the side of the the intelligence and militarist circles. Because of this reason she, in her interviews and speeches, supports these interventions and aggressions. He added: The politicians and the nation of Pakistan do not agree with this policy of Ms Bhutto's government. For example, Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition and Moulana Fazlur Rahman, president and secretary general of Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islam and chairman of the standing committee on foreign affairs, rejected and condemned the policy of Ms Bhutto vis-a-vis Afghanistan.

Concerning Pakistan's accusation over Afghanistan's establishment of good relations with the Republic of India and receipt of assistance from that country, esteemed Lafra'i said: When Sardar Asif Ali, Pakistan's foreign minister, visited Kabul a while ago he met with esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, member of the high state council, who told him that the government of the ISA, as a free and independent country, has the right to establish links and friendly relations with any country it likes.

Hence, any accusation in this respect is unwarranted and in fact means denial of freedom and independence to Afghanistan and this is been regarded, from the point of view of international relations, as wholly invalid.

Regarding the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the minister of state for foreign affairs, said: According to the tripartite decision — Pakistan, Afghanistan, and UNHCR — Pakistan has no right to expel Afghan refugees without any program worked out in advance for receiving and providing necessary facilities for the refugees. He said : The ISA wants the repatriation to their homeland of all Afghan refugees

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from all countries when necessary facilities are created and all problems are resolved.

Rabbani Remarks on Pakistan 'Intervention' Reported

LD0310222795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In pursuing a wrong policy of trying to create animosity between the two Muslim and fraternal people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Pakistan's rulers have isolated that country. According to Bakhtar, this point was made today by the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] at a meeting of the mass media coordination commission.

At the meeting of the mass media coordination commission, chaired by esteemed Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA, first 'Abdol-'Aziz Morad, chairman of this commission, presented a report to the meeting regarding the the work and activities of this commission. He said: The mass media coordination commission has been active for the last three years. During this period the press law was formulated and the publication regulation was implemented. The mass media is now operating in the country on the basis of this law and regulation.

In appreciating the work of the commission, the president of the ISA then spoke for an hour and said: The people of Afghanistan will not forget the cooperation of the Muslim people of Pakistan. The people of Pakistan have nothing to do with the intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan which is taking place under the politicians. According to the president of Afghanistan, the rulers of Pakistan, in order to disguise their intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, sometimes raise the issue of Afghanistan's relations with one country and another time with another country. In connection with this point the president of Afghanistan added: In reserving the right of having relations with any country on the basis of our country's interests, we will never establish relations with one country against another country.

Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani said: Pakistan has been isolated at a regional level, as a result of pursuing a wrong and unwise policy by the present rulers of Pakistan. And the wave of disagreement with this policy has been constantly growing inside that country. The other unfortunate purpose in this respect is to create differences and animosity between the two fraternal and Muslim people. It is the duty of the people and members of the parliament not to allow further deterioration of relations between the two nations.

The president of Afghanistan drew the attention of the mass media coordination commission's members to keep in mind the objective realities of our society when publishing facts. [Words indistinct]

UN Envoy Mestiri Arrives for Talks With Hekmatyar

LD0310172795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan, today arrived in Jalalabad, provincial capital of Nangarhar Province in order to talk to Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Afghanistan's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party].

Mestiri will inform Hekmatyar about the issues discussed with the Afghan leaders, specially a proposal to establish a cease-fire in Afghanistan. This proposal by the UN special envoy has been welcomed by the Afghan president.

The special envoy of the UN secretary general yesterday met with General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, leader of Jonbesh-e Melli-e Eslami [National Islamic Movement], in Mazar-e Sharif city and talked to him about the issue of transfer of power.

Radio Reports on UN Envoy's Efforts, Cease-Fire

LD0310190695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports reaching here from Afghanistan speak of a cease-fire between General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement, and the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani. Mr. Mestiri, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Afghanistan, who is trying to bring about a cease-fire between warring Afghan factions, announced this in Kabul. He said: General Dostam, a government opponent, and Rabbani's government have accepted some provisions on a cease-fire.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Islamabad, Mahmoud Mestiri, who went to Afghanistan two days ago, in his separate meetings with Rabbani in Kabul and with General Dostam in Jowzjan, exchanged views on establishing a cease-fire between them. On his return from Afghanistan yesterday he said in Islamabad that the Taleban had put forward conditions for cease-fire that are unacceptable to the president of Afghanistan. In the meanwhile, yesterday an Afghan government spokesman said: The Kabul government will accept the UN envoy's cease-fire proposal provided the opposition also observe it.

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Bangladesh

Iranian President To Begin 3-Day Visit 10 Oct

BK0110134395 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, arrives in Bangladesh on the 10th of this month on a three-day state visit. The visit is taking place at the invitation of President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. He will be accompanied by Madam Rafsanjani, some cabinet ministers, senior officials and a delegation of leading Iranian businessmen. During his stay, the Iranian president will hold official talks with the Bangladesh prime minister on promotion and expansion of bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. They will also exchange views on regional, Islamic, and international issues of common concern. Iranian business delegation will hold talks with Bangladesh business community on further strengthening relations in the field of trade and investment, particularly for attracting Iranian investment in Bangladesh.

Zia Criticizes Opposition's 'Destructive Activities'

BK3009120195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said her government has been working relentlessly to remove poverty and make the country self-reliant in all spheres. She was addressing a gathering of newspaper hawkers in Dhaka last night. Several thousand members of the Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bohumukhi Sammabay Samity [Newspaper Hawkers Multilateral Cooperative Association] Limited joined the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] expressing their solidarity with the ideals and programs of the party and lending their support to the leadership of Begum Zia.

The prime minister sharply criticized the destructive activities of a section of opposition parties and said they are not the friends of the people who have taken the part of hampering public and private property in the name of movement. She said frequent hartals [strikes] enforced by them have been causing immense harm to the common man. She urged all conscious people to protest the wrongdoings of the opposition parties. Begum Zia said while the countries of the world are progressing fast, a section of opposition in our country are out to push the nation toward backwardness through their destructive activities. Their frequent hartals and disruptive activities are designed to make the people of this country poorer and keep the children uneducated. These political parties did nothing for the welfare of the people when they were in power. The Prime Minister said the BNP always wanted to solve any problem through discussion. She said if the opposition sincerely wants to solve their own created problems, they should sit with the BNP for discussions to find out a solution of their problems within the framework of the Constitution. Welcoming the hawkers in her party, Begum Zia appreciated them for engaging themselves in a very noble job. She asked them to help spread the welfare-oriented politics of BNP.

The leaders of the newly joined Hawkers Samity [Association] said they have joined BNP because it believes in development and peace. They said they are opposed to all sorts of chaos, indiscipline, and harmful activities.

Cabinet Approves Preferential Trading Arrangement

BK0210154295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet has approved the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, SAPTA, and the draft bill relating to the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute Act 1995. These were approved at the weekly cabinet meeting held today in Dhaka and chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The cabinet also agreed, in principle, to approve the proposals related to the amendment of the WASA [Water and Sewerage Authority] Ordinance of 1930 and the Administrative Tribunal Act of 1980. Among others, the meeting was attended by ministers and state ministers in charge of different ministries.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Official Discusses Ties With Iraq

NC2809123895 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 95 pp 1, 14

[Report by Nezameddin Najafi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, 'Ali Khorram, the senior adviser to Iranian foreign minister, elaborated on the recent developments regarding normalization of Iran-Iraq ties and significant measures taken so far within the framework of the UN Resolution 598.

He noted that the UN Resolution 598 and the Algiers 1975 Treaty lay the foundation for Iran-Iraq links, adding that the resolution would deal with settling the war-related issues, while the treaty shapes the normal bilateral relations.

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Concerning implementation of the articles of Resolution 598, Khorram said that most of the articles have already been carried into effect.

Elaborating on the subject, he noted, "Article 1 of the UN Resolution 598 called for cease-fire, which has been observed. Article 2 asked both sides to return to internationally recognized borders, which has also been complied with. Article 3 deals with releasing the POWs; so far, most of the POWs of both sides have been released, and talks are under way for the immediate release of the remaining POWs.

"On a visit to Iraq three months ago, I had talks with my Iraqi counterpart and also the Iraqi foreign minister, and we arrived at some understanding regarding the exchange of POWs, searching for those missing in action (MIA) and the bodies of martyrs, and the refugees. Within the framework of the agreements reached, we hope to break the deadlock as to the issue of the POW's. As the next step, we hope to deal with the issue of the MIAs. Finding the bodies of martyrs would definitely decrease the number of those supposed to be missing in action, since many of them are in fact the martyrs whose bodies have not been found yet. Iraq has promised to look for the bodies along the border in its territory, and Iran will do the same on the Iranian side. A special Iranian committee has been formed to handle the operations in this regard, and so far, nearly 20,000 bodies have been found and funeral procession has been conducted for them.

"In Baghdad, we also reached an agreement on exchanging all documented Iranian and Iraqi POWs. To begin with, lists of those believed to be alive will be exchanged. The two sides will examine the lists, and following the confirmation of the lists by both sides, a date will be set for the exchange of the remaining POWs under the supervision of the International Red Cross."

Pointing to other articles of the resolution, Khorram said, "Article 4 of the UN Resolution 598, which mostly deals with the suspended issues such as pilgrimages to holy shrines in Iran and Iraq on both sides, is presently being discussed by the two countries. Article 5 called for an end to attacks against oil tankers, which was related to wartime, no longer at issue. Article 6 demanded identifying the war initiator. It was incumbent upon the UN secretary general to carry out the task, which has already been performed by him. Article 7 dealt with determining war damages, the task also incumbent on the UN secretary general. The war damages inflicted on Iran have been estimated at $99 billion for direct and $150 billion for indirect damages.

"Article 8 called for regional security. Based on Resolution 598, Iran, Iraq, and six other countries in the Persian Gulf region were supposed to cooperate in effecting some form of regional security. But, following Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Persian Gulf states have shown hesitations in this regard.

"Iran is prepared to join forces with other regional countries, whenever they feel ready, to bring about security and stability in the region."

Khorram concluded by saying that the major articles of the resolution have been implemented, and that Iranian officials hope the remaining minor points will also be carried into effect soon.

Envoy to Rome Denies Meeting Iraqi Counterpart

LD0110183895 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rome, Oct. 1, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Rome, Majid Hedayat-Zadeh on Sunday [1 October] denied that he had held talks with Iraqi ambassador to Rome, Fayaz al-Fayaz [name as received] last week.

He said he had answered a question posed by the reporters on Iran-Iraq relations that the two countries are neighbours and an Iraqi delegation has recently visited Iran.

IRNA's stringer in Naples, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) and some sections of the Italian press had quoted Hedayat-Zadeh as saying in the claimed meeting with al-Fayaz that the two countries should forget the past and build a friendly relations.

The Iranian and Iraqi ambassadors were invited to a conference in Postoijna, Italy titled "Contact 95".

The conference was held with participation of 280 Italian companies and 13 main economic partners of Italy.

Iran, China, Argentina, Cuba, South Africa, Ukraine, Poland, Albania, Iraq, Sudan, Brazil, San Marino and Peru attended the three-day conference.

Invitations to PUK, KDP 'Message' to Washington

MM0310151995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Oct 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Iran Invites Barzani and Talabani Delegations to Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Informed Iraqi opposition sources told AL-HAYAH that Iran has invited two delegations representing the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] (led by Jalal Talabani) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] (led by Mas'ud Barzani).

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The sources explained that the KDP delegation which arrived in Tehran yesterday comprised Political Bureau members Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, Jawhar Namiq, and Azad Buruwari. The PUK delegation comprises Political Bureau members Fu'ad Ma'sum, Qadir al-Hajj 'Ali, and Faridun 'Abd-al-Qadir. The latter is presently in Tehran whereas Qadir al-Hajj will travel there from al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq.

Ma'sum left London yesterday for the Iranian capital via Damascus, where he will meet with Talabani, who has returned to Syria from Tehran after spending more than a week there, during which time he met with Iranian officials and Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The sources said that they expect the Iranians to arrange a meeting in Tehran between the two parties' delegations, but ruled out that it will have a tangible result such as an agreement on a peace plan. The sources believe that Tehran wants to send a message to the Americans to the effect that it has some influence over the Kurdish leaders in Iraq, and that it is capable of gathering them whenever it wants to. It must be mentioned that the United States is still trying to get the two Kurdish parties to agree. For this reason, officials in Washington invited representatives of both Kurdish parties last week, discussed with them a new plan for a peace agreement, and asked them to relay it to both parties' leaderships.

Expansion of Economic Ties Discussed With Kuwait

LD3009200495 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA — Considering Iran's industrial and trade capabilities the two countries of Iran and Kuwait should make efforts to expand their relations, said the first deputy of Iranian minister of commerce, Hoseyn Nuqreh-Kar Shirazi, in a meeting here today with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Rashid 'Abdallah al-Rumi.

Referring to the Iranian growth in agricultural, mines, and metals sectors, Shirazi added that if Kuwait shows any interest for further cooperation with Iran, the two countries would be able to use the existing resources.

He expressed hope that by taking effective steps, Iran and Kuwait would be able to expand their cooperation in the areas of railway, shipping, tourism, and use of Iranian experts in agricultural and oil industry.

Referring to establishment of a new free trade zone in Kuwait, al-Romi expressed hope that the free trade zone will play an effective role in further improvement and expansion of trade relations between Iran and his country.

Welcoming the Iranian offer for having railway and transportation relations with Kuwait, al-Rumi called such relations as "positive" for expansion of trade cooperation between the two countries.

Joint Chamber of Commerce Suggested

LD0310154395 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA — Kuwaiti minister of commerce and industry, Rashid 'Abdallah al-Rumi said here on Tuesday [3 October] that setting up of Iran-Kuwait chamber of commerce would help promote trade exchange between the two nations.

In a meeting with the head of Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Ali Naqi Khamushi, Al-Rumi hoped that relations between the two countries would expand especially in economic area and said the two countries Chambers of Commerce could contribute to boost bilateral trade.

Khamushi said Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwaykh, had already presented proposals to upgrade trade relations with Tehran.

Khamushi pointed to Iranian economic potentials and expressed hope that the respective governments would assist in promoting economic cooperation between the two nations.

Bahraini Dissident Cited on Talks With Government

NC2909171195 Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Sep 95 p 8

[IRNA report from Bahrain]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Nabi al-'Askari, member of the committee for the defense of human rights and the head of the committee for coordination between the Popular Front, the National Front, and opposition groups in Bahrain elaborated on trends in the current talks between the Bahraini government and the opposition groups as well as on the release of prisoners.

According to the Arabic service of Radio Monte Carlo, he was quoted as commenting to the radio's correspondent that talks are currently under way at the Bahraini interior ministry between the Interior minister and other officials of the ministry with leaders of the Bahrain Liberation Movement and Muslim clerics of the country.

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He added that the talks are encountering difficulties since the Bahraini government does not acknowledge that talks are even taking place. In addition, the Bahraini government intends to limit the extent of the talks and wishes to extort concessions from the opposition on the issue of political prisoners.

He said: These talks are political negotiations fraught with all the problems that stem from non-implementation of the Constitution, absence of a parliament, and the continuing trend of impinging on individual freedoms. Hence, the talks should be in the form of a discussion involving a national panel which incorporates all the political sides itself and should be conducted at the highest possible level. In addition, the necessary guarantees, formulae, and a program which envisages a specific timeframe should be included in these high-level talks.

Sudan Seeks Oil Cooperation, Expertise

LD0310200695 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA — In a meeting here today with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, the Sudanese ambassador to Iran Mahdi al-Qutbi, submitted a written message from his country's parliament speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah Yunis, on the next session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held in the Romanian capital Bucharest.

In the meeting, al-Qutbi expressed satisfaction over the expanding relations between the two countries, and called for oil cooperation and the services of Iranian oil experts for his country.

Terming as "suitable" the relations between Tehran and Khartoum, Nateq-Nuri called for puting into operation the agreements already reached between the two countries. In a response to al-Qutbi's talks on his country's difficulties, Nateq-Nuri pointed out that "when people support the state, the foreign powers and their domestic agents will not be able to harm it."

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Afghanistan

LD2409102195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Foreign Ministry deputy for Asian-Pacific affairs, visited Afghanistan and Pakistan. During his visit he met several Afghan leaders and the Pakistani foreign minister to discuss the Afghan crisis.

Mr. Borujerdi spoke about these meetings to a Central News Unit correspondent in Islamabad:

[Begin Borujerdi recording] We reviewed and discussed the latest political and military developments and events in Afghanistan. Our efforts as the Islamic Republic of Iran were focused on bringing groups closer toward negotiations that would lead to a political solution. The best choice for the settlement of the Afghan issue seems to be avoiding military clashes and getting closer to achieving a political solution. That was the basis for our discussions. Of course there are deep problems with Kabul that require a great deal of effort to reduce. But one can be hopeful about the future.

Later in my visit, I met with Mr. Sardar Asif Ali, the Pakistani foreign minister. We reviewed the new developments. I informed him about Iran's concern over the reports on attack against Kabul. Pakistan was asked to continue its efforts to prevent military operations which, in fact, result in the further massacre of the innocent people of that country. We believe that such negotiations can help reduce clashes. [end recording]

Indian Minister Calls For Expansion of Ties

LD0410094095 Tehran IRNA in English 0802 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA — India's new commercial policies along with the "favorable" trade relations in the past between Tehran and New Delhi could be effective in expanding bilateral trade ties, announced Indian Minister of State for Food Ajit Singh here Monday [2 October].

In a meeting with commerce minister Yahya ol-Eshaq, he made reference to the Indian Government's devising of tariff on certain imported goods and also the regulations for import of such commodities, and said that the tariffs had prevented the bolstering and expansion of mutual cooperation.

Among other factors impeding bilateral commercial activities, enumerated the Indian official, were A.C.V. [actual cash value] accounts, adding that more suitable ways should be found to solve the intricacy.

He said transportation, transit and joint investments in railway and export of traditional goods were suitable areas for cooperation between the the two countries.

Referring to the long-term cultural, political and commercial relationship between Iran and India, Singh noted that despite their having favorable political and commercial ties, the two countries managed to realize just about two percent of potential commercial links. He called for appropriate measures for the expansion of mutual relations.

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He agreed to look into the alleviation of problems on the way of Iran's importation of rice, sugar and tea from India and called on the Iranian commerce minister to pay a visit to India for further discussions on mutual cooperation.

Rafsanjani Meets Spanish Deputy Senate Speaker

LD0210135295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Mr. Joan Rigol I Rogig, deputy speaker of the Spanish Senate, who is visiting Iran as head of a parliamentary delegation.

At the meeting, the deputy speaker of the Spanish Senate said that the purpose of his visit to Iran is to establish close and friendly parliamentary ties between the two countries. He added: Iran enjoys a rich civilization and an ancient history and Spain wishes to establish further contact with this country.

Referring to his visit to the historic city of Esfahan, touring the city's churches and meeting Iran's Christian minority, the deputy speaker of the Spanish Senate said that these visits and meetings are very interesting and useful to me and illustrate Iran's ancient history and freedom of religious minorities in Iran. He added that Spain as the rotating presidency of the European Community will make every effort to bring further closer the viewpoints of the community's nations with Iran.

Referring to the very good grounds of cooperation that exist between Iran and Spain, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the existence of the historic remains left from the Islamic period in Spain have caused Iranian researchers and historians to pay special attention to that country. The president added that the records of cultural and historical cooperation between the two countries demand that the current resources and potentials in Iran and Spain be used in a better manner toward expanding political, economic, and cultural ties.

Spanish Official Rejects U.S. 'Campaign'

LD0310113395 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA — Although Spain is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and must formulate its policies accordingly, Madrid nevertheless will continue its constructive dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran, said a senior Spanish official here Monday [2 October].

In an interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS',printed on Tuesday, the Spanish Senate's Vice-President Joan Rigol I Rogig said his country does not intend to involve itself in the current U.S. campaign against Iran.

He added that Madrid believes that straightforward dialogue is the best way to resolve any problems that may exist between Spain and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Spanish parliamentarian pointed out, "in my meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I stated that my country intends to conduct its relations with other countries in conformity with the policies of the European Union (EU), and I hope that our countries will expand their relations in the near future."

"Our delegation's mission was to pave the way for future formal governmental discussions between Iran and Spain on the expansion of relations," Roig said.

He added that the other objectives of his delegation's visit were to become familiarized with Iran's current political and economic conditions, its various institutions and its rich history.

Velayati Returns From UN General Assembly Meetings

Comments on Ties With China

NC0410073095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati returned this morning after attending the 50th session of the UN General Assembly in New York and spoke to our correspondent about the most important results of the session.

Velayati said that during the session, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran held useful and effective talks with the foreign ministers of other countries which paved the way for the further consolidation of bilateral cooperation.

Referring to the talks between members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference's contact group with members of the international contact group on Bosnia, the foreign minister said: These talks have achieved acceptable results, and the Westerners have realized that the solution of the Bosnian crisis is not possible without the help of the Islamic countries.

Commenting on recent statements by U.S. officials that China is refraining from cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said:

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[Begin Velayati recording] This is not the first time that U.S. officials have made baseless remarks. What we have heard the Chinese officials say is different from what the Department of State and its officials say. In an interview after his speech [to the UN General Assembly], the Chinese foreign minister did not confirm this. This was also not confirmed in the talks he had with us. What China has stressed is that an agreement has not yet been reached on a mutually agreed upon site in Iran where these nuclear installations will be set up for peaceful purposes. And this is neither a difficult nor impossible thing to do. [end recording]

[Tehran Voice of Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian in its 0430 GMT newscast in a similar report adds: "Commenting on recent statements by U.S. officials that China is refraining from cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said: What we have heard the Chinese officials say is different from what the Americans say. Pointing out that U.S. officials are distorting issues in order to upset the Islamic Republic's relations with other countries, the foreign minister added: The Islamic Republic of Iran and China have extremely good and strong relations, and we are fully faithful to our agreements. The foreign minister emphasized: Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China will never be harmed by the propaganda commotion created by America."]

Describes Talks on Various Issues

LD0410090195 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday [4 October] morning from New York where he participated in the 50th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Upon his arrival, he told reporters that the Iranian delegation outlined Tehran's stand vis-a-vis regional and international issues and he held separate talks with his counterparts from other participating countries on the sidelines of the UNGA session to discuss ways of promoting bilateral ties and cooperation with those states.

Velayati noted that during his 10-day stay in New York, joint meetings have been held by member states of the Economic Cooperation Council (ECO) and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as a trilateral meeting of Iran, Central Asia and regional countries.

Describing as useful the joint meeting between the Islamic and western contact groups on the Bosnian issue, Velayati said westerners have come to the conclusion that no peace would be made in Bosnia without the assistance of Islamic countries.

He referred to the U.S. propaganda over the nuclear cooperation between Iran and China. He said it was not the first time that U.S. officials have made such baseless allegations, stressing that China refused to halt cooperation with Iran in this field and that Beijing was still willing to countinue its nuclear cooperation with Tehran.

Velayati recalled that the U.S. had also failed in its efforts when Washington engaged in similar propaganda moves last year over the nuclear cooperation of China and Russia.

Croatian, Bosnian Ministers Meet With Leaders

Croatian Minister Arrives

LD0110171495 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA — The Croatian Minister of Economic Affairs, Zlatko Matesa, arrived here Sunday [1 October] morning to attend the first session of the trilateral economic commission composed of Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

Heading a technical, economic, scientific and trade delegation, Matesa was invited by Minister of Roads and Transportation Akbar Torkan to pay an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During his three-day stay in the country, the Croatian minister who is also the co-chairman of the Economic Commission will meet with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi and some other cabinet officials.

Issues related to banking, oil and gas, industry and mines, as well as power and development will be among the topics to be discussed by Matesa and the Iranian officials.

Habibi, Croatia's Matesa Hold Talks

LD0310195795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Croatia's Economics Minister Zlatco Matesa who is in Tehran for the purposes of participating in Iran and Croatia's joint economic commission, met and conferred with First Vice President Hasan Habibi today.

According to the Central News Unit, at the meeting Habibi congratulated Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina for their latest victories. He then said he was glad that

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the joint economic commission was starting its talks and stressed that the work of the joint commission and trilateral activities should be speeded up because it was necessary to establish a fast and secure transport route with Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to stage specialized trade fairs in Croatia.

The Croatian economic minister, for his part, described as positive the outcome of his talks with Iranian officials. He said that the understandings reached in the joint commission when Habibi visited Croatia were very important in establishing friendly relations and cooperation between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said that the visit was a turning-point in the expansion and consolidation of bilateral relations between Iran and Croatia, and of trilateral relations between Iran, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Joint Session Held; Adriatic Pipeline Discussed

LD0310130695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first joint economic session on cooperation between Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia this morning began its work in Tehran. According to a Central News Unit report, the session discussed, among other important topics, an agreement for Iran to use the Adriatic oil pipeline in Croatia to transport our country's crude oil to central and eastern Europe.

Banking issues, creation of joint companies to invest in Bosnia- Herzegovina, Croatia, and Iran; formation of a joint chamber of commerce between the three countries; cancellation of the multiple [moza'f] taxes to facilitate exchanges of goods; and cooperation in producing industrial equipments and chemical products were among the topics raised and discussed at the session.

Mr. Akbar Torkan, minister of roads and transport and head of Iranian side to the joint economic commission of Tehran's session, said: Once an agreement is reached to use the Adriatic oil pipeline in Croatia, our country's crude oil will be transferred to the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungry, and Slovakia.

The report by the Central News Unit correspondent adds that Mr. Torkan and the Croatian minister of economic affairs signed a memorandum of understanding before today's trilateral session. Under the memorandum, the two countries, Iran and Croatia, declared their readiness to cooperate in the spheres of trade; construction; and technical and development, water, power, and production of industrial equipment in order to meet each other's requirements.

Among other agreements included in the memorandum of understanding signed by two countries is the export of railway installations and public transport vehicles from Iran to Croatia, cooperation in the spheres of chemical industry, fisheries, agriculture, medicine, and animal husbandry and making use of the two countries' sport trainers.

Bosnian Delegation Visits Trade Fair

AU0310200595 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade delegations of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Islamic Republic of Iran have held a meeting at the trade fair in Tehran. The Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation was led by Faruk Smailbegovic, minister of industry and energy. The two delegations held talks about the current and future economic cooperation between the two countries. Minister Smailbegovic, accompanied by members of the Iranian Government, visited the fair and several important businesses in Iran.

A meeting of a tripartite commission of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iran, and Croatia begins in Tehran today. As announced, the meeting will last three days.

Minister Describes Trip to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

LD2709131095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Returning from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, minister of construction jihad [Mohammad Foruzesh] announced that under a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Kazakhstan, the development jihad company attached to the Ministry of Construction Jihad will act as the executor of the project building a silo and equipping the port of (Oktav) in Kazakhstan. Oktav port is located on the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea, and the ships travel from this port to Anzali port in the northern Iran.

Foruzesh added that under a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, it was agreed that cooperation between the two countries should increase in the spheres of food production, animal husbandry, and implementing projects in agriculture and natural resources. During the visit of the construction jihad minister to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, ways of expanding Iran's cooperation with those countries in the spheres of trade, research, exchanges of experiences, and especially cooperation in the Caspian Sea marine life and animal husbandry were discussed.

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Cooperation Deals Detailed

LD2709221895 Tehran IRNA in English 2156 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA — According to a memoradum of understanding inked between Iran and Kazakhstan, Iran's 'Jihad Expansion Company' is to build a silo and installation of Octave port of Kazakhstan on the northeastern shores of the Caspian.

Construction Jihad Minister, Gholamreza Foruzesh, summing up his recent visit to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, said here Wednesday [27 September] that Octave port is to be linked by a shipping line to Iran's Bandar Anzali on the southern shores of the Caspian in Gilan Province.

He said his visit was in line with Iran's policy to promote ties with Central Asian states, and that while in Kazakhstan he reviewed bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, livestock, poultry farming and fisheries.

He said Iran and Kazakhstan are due to have joint cooperation in caviar production.

On the results of his talks in Kyrgyzstan, Forouzesh said that according to a memorandum of understanding Iran and that country are to expand cooperation in producing foodstuff, animal husbandry and natural resources plans.

Forouzesh offered the technical engineering expertise of his ministry to Kyrgyzstan for building dams, silos and cement factories. He also said that Iran could supply that country with various types of animal vaccines.

Moldovan Request To Set Up Oil Refinery Granted

LD0310152295 Tehran IRNA in English 1354 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 3, IRNA — In response to a request by Moldovan Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Valeriu Bobutac for Tehran-Chisinau oil cooperation, Iran has announced its readiness to set up a refinery in Moldova.

Bobutac, who is now in Tehran to participate in the 21st Tehran international trade fair, made the request in a meeting with Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq.

In the meeting, Bobutac said if the Islamic Republic is willing to invest in constructing an oil terminal in Moldova, his country too will make investment in the project through financial assistance from the World Bank and the Bundesbank of Germany.

He said that Iranian-manufactured engines now being used in Moldova's tractor manufacturing plants was a a sign of Iran's highly technological know-how, adding that 900 tractors have been produced in Moldova this year using Iranian-made engines.

Ol-Eshaq for his part referred to the [word indistinct] more than 800 foreign companies from 53 countries in Tehran's international trade fair, saying the geographical location and appropriate conditions in Moldova preapred the ground for mutual cooperation between the two countries.

He added that Iran and Moldova can cooperate in manufacturing pharmaceutical products and vehicles as well. Iran, enoying high technological know-how and having highly skiled experts is ready to put into operation an oil refinery in Moldova, the Iranian minister said.

President Urges IRNA To Counter Biased Foreign Media

LD3009151295 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kurdistan Prov., Sep 30 (IRNA) — The fabrication of remarks attributed to Iranian officials and the distortion of news related to the Islamic Iran have always been an "abortive and futile" policy which has been adopted by the arrogant media, said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a message delivered here by Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mostafa Mirsalim at the eighth gathering of heads of domestic representative offices of IRNA the president noted however that thanks to the help of Almighty God, such a policy has failed to work.

The message continued by saying that news and information are an effective means for hegemonist powers to assert their influence, adding that dissemination of information plays a determining role in international equations.

The president said that global arrogance had imposed economic sanctions against Iran to harm the country's economy and make the Iranian nation poor. On the other hand, the mass media working for global arrogance, by spreading biased information, attempt to aggravate the problems created by the hegomonist powers.

Moreover, the message added, the media turned a blind eye on the significant achievements of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

As for IRNA's duties versus the distortion by the selfish media regarding the realities that are prevailing in the country, the president said that IRNA shoulders the grave responsibility of disseminating sound information to the society.

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He added that IRNA should shore up its capabilities and be highly efficient in its endeavors in order that it can defend the country's political and cultural boundaries.

The message continued that IRNA should expose the distortions that are being reported in the media and present the real events behind these distortions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged the agency to expand its news networks, to have an efficient and timely presence in domestic and foreign news circles, to employ an efficient workforce, and make use of advanced technology in the field of communications.

The other tasks of IRNA, said the president, included confronting the enemy's information inroads, divulging the nature of Zionists' news dissemination centers, reporting intelligently the ways which enemies use to harm the holy system of the Islamic Republic and finally unveiling the enemies' deceptive reports and propaganda tricks.

Khamene'i Stresses Importance of News Reporting

LD0110113795 Tehran IRNA in English
1104 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 1 (IRNA) — Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday [1 October] underlined the importance of disseminating information and news, stressing that confrontation with the news assault of the enemies necessitated profound belief in and strong commitment to the task.

The leader was addressing IRNA Managing Director Fereydun Verdinezhad and a number of officials of the agency, including IRNA bureau chiefs from throughout the country.

Emphasizing the need to avoid dissemination of empty news, the leader stressed that arrogant powers had formed a unified front against the Islamic system and revolution and were cooperating, coordinating and exchanging news with one another to implement a unified policy.

However, Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed, faithful forces having strong belief in their sacred objective were standing against such a unified front and have so far proven their superiority in this respect.

Stressing that news reporting should be effective and timely and should follow a certain objective, the leader advised that news should be prepared in such a way that could provide useful and necessary information and be to the benefit of the country.

Khamene'i on 'Pivotal Role' of Friday Prayer Leaders

LD2509182795 Tehran IRNA in English
1715 GMT 25 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 25, IRNA — Leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i here on Monday [2 October] underlined the pivotal role of Friday prayer leaders in guiding the people, looking after matters in different areas and in foiling the plots of enemies.

Speaking to members of the high council for policy-making of the country's Friday prayer leaders, he said the ideal Friday prayer leader is a learned lecturer, faithful and fair, and blessed with deep political awareness.

He said the Friday prayer leaders have a very important and decisive role in reconstruction, proper administration of the state and in confronting the conspiracies of the enemy.

The leader said the role of Friday prayer leaders is constructive in solving the problems in their respective areas through putting forward suggestions to improve the society.

He said the high council for policy-making has an important role in coordinating implementation of programmes consistent with functions of the Friday prayer leaders.

Before the leader's speech, head of the high council for policy- making, Hojjat ol-eslam Rasuli Mohallati gave a report on the performance of the council.

Nateq-Nuri on Majles Elections, Return of 'Ali Tehrani

LD2709211995 Tehran IRNA in English
1748 GMT 27 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] [Majles Speaker] Nateq-Nuri, on a tour of Kerman Province answered questions posed to him at a meeting with students at Martyr Bahonar University of Kerman. He said the Majles had passed a law allowing political activity of parties with a subsequent procedural regulations ratified by the government. He also said that according to the new laws all parties whose activities were not against the laws of the state would have official licence.

Asked for his views about the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Iran to be held on March 8, 1996, he said that if the Hezbollah did not have a strong participation in the elections irresponsible candidates would, perhaps, find their way into the legislative assembly of Iran. The next round of parliamentary elections would be the fifth four year term after the Islamic revolution

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for the 270-member Majles which has candidates even from the religious minorities living in Iran.

In response to a question about reasons for the government having allowed the return to Iran of Sheykh 'Ali Tehrani who had fled to Iraq during the imposed war (1980-88), he said Tehrani had voluntarily surendered to the Law Enforcement Forces at a border point.

Asked whether the Council of Guardians would tolerate liberal elements taking part in the parliamentary elections exploiting liberalistic attitudes that were being fed into the Iranian society, the speaker said the label had a wide range of interpretations, commenting that the Council of Guardians would approve candidates with clean records.

Answering a question about a rumored proposition for privatization of the country's universities and colleges, he said, "we do not believe in the privatization of universities."

On the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nateq-Nuri commented that Iran's policy was to establish relations with all countries except the Zionist regime and the U.S. as [word indistinct] relations with the west was one thing and relations with the United States quite another, he concluded.

Majles Official on Income from Non-Oil Exports

LD2609191795 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 26 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ilam, Sept. 26, IRNA — Head of Majles Commission for Plan and Budget, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Dorri-Najafabadi said here on Tuesday [26 September] non-oil export would fetch dlrs. 27.5 billion during the second five-year development plan (1995-1999).

Speaking at the administrative council of the province, he said the exports during the five-year period would earn 100 billion dollars. Dlrs. 72.5 billion would be from oil revenues and the non-oil exports would meet the rest of the budget, the MP said.

He said the administrative system and management should undergo a drastic change, the economic parameters including the per capita income should improve and the consumption model should change to prepare grounds for materialization of the objectives of the second development plan.

Deputy on Projects To Sever Dependency on Oil

95LA0373G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Jul 95 p 11

[Report on interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi, deputy from Tehran and chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—Ways to sever the country's dependence on oil revenues, the effect of the implementation of large economic projects on the living conditions of the people, and the harm to the national economy resulting from the devaluation of the dollar were explained in the interview of our correspondent with Hojjat ol-Eslam Dari-Najafabadi, the deputy from Tehran and chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee.**

[RESALAT] What programs are the government and the regime pursuing to stop dependence on oil revenues, and what ways are there to achieve this goal?

[Dari-Najafabadi] The Majles emphasis is on reaching the goal of developing non-oil exports and increasing production to replace imported goods. Our revered people will note that the oil reserves of our country are about 70 billion barrels, and this God-given resource is limited. Considering the increasing trend of domestic consumption, we can count on oil revenues for at most three developmental plans, and during this period, the maximum appropriate use of the reserves must be made. In order to save the country from dependence on oil revenues, there is no other solution except moving towards other foreign currency resources.

One of the ways to gain foreign currency revenues for the country is the use of transit. Especially since the Bafeq-Bandar 'Abbas railroad was put into operation, a suitable opportunity has been provided in this regard, and through the transit of goods and services and creating a communication bridge between the Central Asian countries and other countries, we can create a good source of revenues for the country. One of the capacities in the country that has not yet been properly utilized is benefiting from re-exports. Today, in our country there is suitable opportunity for re-exporting goods, such as powdered detergents, shortening, and many other goods. With proper planning, we can import sugar and, by converting it to sugar cubes, create more than a 20-percent increase in value.

The export of manpower and engineering, the use of the services of contract companies in international bidding, and the ECO member countries that have populations of more than 100 million have provided a suitable prospect

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to gain foreign currency revenues, and such anticipation is also contained in a note in the Second Plan law.

In terms of the production of tricot and ready-made clothing, our country has a suitable opportunity to be active in the world markets and in Europe, and those who have the capability for this work must use this opportunity in the interests of the country.

In the first year of implementing the plan, to meet the needs of the country regarding, petrochemicals, and foreign trade, we needed $15 billion, but with the efforts that have been made in the course of the First Plan, today the foreign currency needs have decreased tremendously, and the total import needs last year were procured with less than $9 billion. With the implementation of the fundamental projects in steel, petrochemicals, and cement, and the increase in wheat production, red and white meat, and dairy products, and self-sufficiency in military and defense equipment, in many of these cases, we have succeeded in meeting the needs of the country, resulting in either having no need to import or the need to import very little.

[RESALAT] What will be the effects of the large economic plans and projects on the living condition of the people?

[Dari-Najafabadi] The future of the country must be planned and administered for the long term. Taking the future into consideration is a necessity for future generations because all the resources and revenues cannot be spent on the present generation. In order for the national economy to have a sound and secure operation, it is necessary to continually increase the production capacities of the country. For example, when in one region of the country a 25,000-ton cement factory is built, it creates 2,000 jobs directly and several thousand jobs indirectly, and in addition to increasing the production capacity, it causes a decrease in foreign currency dependence and the growth of technology. The totality of the large projects and plans raises the economic capability of the country and makes us not need foreigners. For example, if today we did not have Arak Petrochemical and Mobarakeh Steel, we would have to import at least $400 million annually for the products of each of these units. Today however, with these units the available foreign currency is not spent on the import of these products. Also the sugar cane project that is under way in Khuzestan—the first phase of which is planned to be put into operation by 1375 [21 March 1996-20 March 1997]—will produce 700,000 tons of sugar, 300,000 tons of paper, and a large amount of pressed wood and livestock feed. In addition to these products, it will bring along about 25,000 direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect jobs. This cannot be ignored. This work and like investments are not only necessary for the future generation, but the present generation as well. Today, our country is dependent in many of the areas for which projects and large investments are being made. There is no solution to stop this dependence but investing.

Another important point in the implementation of these projects is to prevent the pressure on the national economy of the increase in prices of these goods on the world market. For example, the price of one ton of sugar in the past six months has fluctuated from $280 up to $450, and cooking oil in the past few months has increased by $150 per ton on the world market. If we produce these goods domestically, we will not suffer from price fluctuations on the world market.

Some may think that we are investing too much in the country. In response, it must be said that despite all this work which is being done, still the rate of investment in the country is about 15 percent. This amount of investment will not meet the needs resulting from the increased population, demand, and attrition. In most countries, 35 to 40 percent of their gross national product is spent on implementing fundamental projects.

Considering the population growth in the country, the minimum rate of investment growth must be about 25 percent of the gross national product; now, instead of one-fourth, about one-seventh of the gross national product is being invested. The situation in our country is at such a phase that we must practice more conservation and frugality. The foreign currency and rial resources must be carefully prioritized and spent. If we are able to gradually raise the rate of investments, in the next 15 years we can create the assurance that we will have high economic capability.

[RESALAT] What effect does the devaluation of the dollar vis-a-vis other currencies have on the national economy?

[Dari-Najafabadi] Based on what is customary in OPEC, the oil-exporting countries, including Iran, are obliged to sell their oil in dollars, but the goods that we buy from our major trade partners, such as Japan, Germany, France, and England, are purchased with the foreign currency of those countries. When the dollar is converted to the foreign currency of these countries to purchase goods, our buying power decreases. For example, at one time, the dollar was worth 280 Japanese yen, whereas it is now worth 80 yen. At the present, the selling price of a barrel of oil on the world market is about $15. Prior to the revolution, it was about that price too, but the price of the goods that we buy abroad today has increased twofold compared to 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978]. The calculation of the losses due

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to the devaluation of the dollar is different in regards to goods, but in the course of the First Plan, the country suffered losses of about $5 billion to $6 billion due to this.

Pakistan

Minister Interviewed on Afghanistan, Other Issues

MM0310105895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Sep 95 p8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali by Raghidah Dirgham in New York on 28 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] How was the ministerial meeting of the liaison team of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] on Afghanistan? Did you manage to reach common ground or was the meeting a failure?

[Ali] It was a very stormy meeting. The Afghan delegation, which was led by the Afghan deputy foreign minister for political affairs, accused Pakistan not only of interfering in Afghanistan's affairs but also of militarily invading its territory, saying that the Pakistani militias had entered Afghanistan. Earlier, the Afghan delegation said that the Pakistani air force had played an important role in that offensive.

In reply, I categorically denied the Afghan delegation's allegations and pointed out that there was no Pakistani interference at all. I also said that no Afghan commander or leader has ever accused Pakistan of interference in Afghanistan's affairs, so why does President Rabbani come now to accuse us of such interference?

I explained to the liaison team that the reason behind President Rabbani's attempt to lay the blame on us was his desire to develop friendship with and establish yet closer relations with India and Russia. So in order to win their friendship, he has to show his animosity toward Pakistan. This is the reason for their (the Afghans') two attacks on our diplomatic mission. In the first attack, they targeted me personally and tried to assassinate me inside Kabul. In the second attack, they killed one of the staff of the mission and injured many other staff, including the ambassador and the military attache.

[Dirgham] Do you mean that India and Russia support such measures, that is, acts of aggression, against diplomatic missions and the attempt to assassinate you personally?

[Ali] The Russians deny that they have been interfering in Afghanistan. But the Taleban have a different story. The Taleban, who now control half of Afghanistan, have shot down a very big Russian cargo plane, which had a Russian crew and was carrying military ammunition (to the Rabbani regime). I saw the plane with my own eyes when I was there. I learned that that was the 41st such flight. I also learned that each cargo plane carried 32 tonnes of sensitive ammunition to the Rabbani regime.

India too has been active in this field. The air force of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud (who is loyal to Rabbani) is run and supervised by Indians. Because India does not want to see peace prevail in Afghanistan. President Rabbani is trying to win India's friendship.

I have today told the ministers of the liaison team that if there is really any intervention in Afghanistan, then it is India that is doing it. We, on our part, have done nothing to oppose his (Rabbani's) government.

Despite the two attacks on our embassy, we did not sever diplomatic relations despite the fact that Rabbani was trying to impose an oligarchy rule by force of arms. For he represents only 20 percent of the population, being of the Tajik community, while Commander Mas'ud believes in nothing other than military victories.

But we have said, and we still do, that a broad-based government should be established with the participation of leaders of the various ethnic factions. The best proof of our good intentions toward him and toward the people of Afghanistan is clearly evident from the fact that we were the first to contribute to the establishment of the first government in 1992, that is the government of (Sebghatollah) Mojaddedi, who remained president for three months.

When Mojaddedi was reluctant to resign, our prime minister sent a special emissary with a message asking him to resign and honor his commitment, and so he did. Then President Rabbani came and said that he wants to join everyone together. So we, in a joint effort with Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the OIC, gathered all the commanders in Islamabad, where they concluded an agreement stipulating that Rabbani widen the base of his government so as to represent all the Afghans, within a period of 15 months. But he refused to do so and adopted the policy of ruling through military victories.

Now, because of his folly, he has been facing defeat throughout Afghanistan and now he comes to blame Pakistan and others for his folly.

[Dirgham] What is the extent of your alliance with the Taleban?

[Ali] We have friendly relations with them, for most of them were refugees in Pakistan and have returned to Afghanistan. But to say that we bolster them and supply them with military ammunition is a lie, with no foundation whatsoever.

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[Dirgham] You say that the Russians have been supplying Rabbani with military ammunition and you deny supplying the Taleban with any ammunition. Who then is supplying the Taleban with ammunition?

[Ali] They are in no need of ammunition, because they are not fighting. Wherever they go, they carry with them a little ammunition, and the people of the city hand everything over to them. They have practically achieved all their victories without fighting.

[Dirgham] Does the Taleban depend on itself only or is it a tool in the hands of certain quarters?

[Ali] They definitely rely on themselves. The Taleban is a movement, and because it is opposed to fighting and blackmail and because it is against the erection of road blocks and against oppression, the Afghan people welcome it.

Herat fell [to the Taleban] without a shot being fired. They [the Taleban] were 40 miles outside Herat, which is one of the main cities of Afghanistan. The people of the city decided that Rabbani's military commander there (General Isma'il Khan) should leave.

[Dirgham] The Afghan Government has accused you officially of using the air force to secure the fall of Herat. Was this true?

[Ali] Nobody believes them. It is all lies. If Pakistan were to use its force, Rabbani would not last five minutes. For Pakistan's air force is one of the best in the world. We could act in a manner akin to that of NATO in Bosnia, for we are not weak.

[Dirgham] Has the tension between Pakistan and Afghanistan reached a dangerous point now?

[Ali] Only as regards the military clique in Kabul, as I do not wish to call it a government from now on. For they control only five out of 32 provinces.

[Dirgham] What you are saying, in the final analysis, leads one to conclude that Pakistan has a specific view and position in respect of the nature of the regime in Afghanistan, and consequently it seems that the Afghan Government's accusations that Pakistan has been interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs are not really unfounded.

[Ali] These accusations are completely unfounded. We have no role in the fighting. What we have said and what the world and the United Nations have been saying is that a broad-based government should be established in Afghanistan. For without an expanded government in Kabul, there can be no peace there.

[Dirgham] What is your position vis-a-vis the idea of the return of the ex-king to Afghanistan?

[Ali] As we have expressed neutrality toward all commanders, then our position toward him would be one of neutrality. If the people of Afghanistan want him back, we, on our part, have no objection to that.

[Dirgham] What is the Pakistani-Iranian relationship toward the Afghan people at this juncture?

[Ali] Iran was disappointed by the recent developments at Herat, particularly as that city is close to Iran and the refugees from it have been pouring into Iran. But we have interceded with Iran and we are trying to mediate between it and the Taleban. We have told the Taleban not to take any measures against the Shiites and against Iran. We told the Iranians that the fall of Herat was an internal matter that concerns Afghanistan alone and has nothing to do with either Iran or Pakistan.

[Dirgham] What did you agree on with your Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati during your meeting here in New York?

[Ali] We agreed to cooperate closely. The Iranian deputy prime minister has recently been in Pakistan on a visit and we held talks with him. Our efforts now revolve within this framework. Despite all that President Rabbani has done against us, we hold no animosity toward him. We still believe that he was a friend of Pakistan who lost his way because of his ambitions.

[Dirgham] Did you promise Iran to contain the Taleban?

[Ali] We said that we will be using our good offices. We were happy to note that when the Taleban entered Herat, the majority of the Shiites there welcomed them. What we are trying to do now is to convince our Iranian friends that the Taleban is not against the Shiites.

[Dirgham] How are you trying to convince the Taleban to establish relations with Iran?

[Ali] We told them (the Taleban) that Iran is a neighboring country of Afghanistan and of us, and we do not like to have bad relations with it.

[Dirgham] What is the extent of the competition between Pakistan and Iran over Central Asia?

[Ali] We do not view the situation as being one of competition. The question is one of bilateral relations. These countries are in need of numerous open channels, from Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, and this is what we are trying to realize.

[Dirgham] We have talked about what Russia is doing, from your point of view, in Afghanistan. What about the United States? Is the United States playing any role?

[Ali] According to our information, the United States has no role at all in Afghanistan at present.

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[Dirgham] What do you mean by the phrase "at present"? Are you seeking to persuade the United States to play a role in Afghanistan?

[Ali] We have asked all the countries that helped in the holy war in Afghanistan to play a role in the era of peace and the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

[Dirgham] Do you feel that the United States has abandoned Afghanistan following the collapse of the USSR?

[Ali] That was the Afghans' feeling. They feel that the free world has used them, and when it achieved its objectives of dismantling the USSR, it cast the Afghans aside. This has in turn led to a feeling of humiliation among the Afghans. We told the rest of the world: Do not do this to a very proud people.

[Dirgham] What role are you urging the United States to play in Afghanistan?

[Ali] To help in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

[Dirgham] I mean in the political field. It was reported that Washington had played host to two Taleban meetings. What was the purpose of that?

[Ali] I know nothing about such meetings. We welcome the holding of such meetings here in the United States among all the sides — President Rabbani, the Taleban, and the others.

[Dirgham] How do you view the role played by the United Nations at this stage in Afghanistan?

[Ali] Our only objection is that the role played by the United Nations has not been effective, because Mahmoud Mestiri (the UN secretary general's emissary) exerted great efforts in the past for the setting up of a mechanism for a council that would assume power from President Rabbani, and all agreed to this. President Rabbani, too, agreed to submit his resignation last March. But suddenly he retracted and refused to do so. We feel that the United Nations should have taken tangible measures at the time, but it did not, and we do not know what was the reason for this. Thus the UN credibility has fallen in regard to the Afghan question and many have felt that the UN secretary general's emissary was not taking the necessary measures.

[Dirgham] Let me go back to what you have said about the Russian role in Afghanistan. How does that role affect the relations between Russia and Pakistan? Are the relations between the two countries in a very bad state?

[Ali] No, our relations with Russia are not bad. They are normal relations, though we would have liked them to be better and closer. Unfortunately, Russia has stated that it wants to build policies that are different from those of the USSR. But so far, there is very little change or difference between the policies of the Cold War and the Russian policies at present toward South Asia. We have shown friendship toward Russia, and I have personally visited Afghanistan at the request of the Russian foreign minister to receive the remains of the prisoners of war in Afghanistan, and obtained the remains of two soldiers. They told me that after the securing of the remains, we can send good signals to the Russian parliament and thus be able to improve relations [sentence as published]. Again they [the Russians] did nothing, and this frustrates us. We feel that Russia has not yet accepted the hand of friendship we extended to it.

[Dirgham] What agreement have you reached recently with the United States concerning the U.S. F-16s which Pakistan had paid for but did not receive because of Congress opposition?

[Ali] The matter is now before the U.S. Congress. We overcame a major and hard obstacle recently when the Senate decided to compensate Pakistan for these planes. The U.S. Administration will pay this compensation. The next step is for the Congress. If the Congress endorses this decision, then we will put this matter behind us.

[Dirgham] Do you mean by this the decision under which the United States can resume its sale of arms to Pakistan?

[Ali] Yes. After the adoption of this decision, we can buy whatever arms we want.

[Dirgham] What happened regarding the Congress' fears about Pakistan's manufacturing nuclear weapons?

[Ali] We have convinced our U.S. friends that our nuclear program is a peaceful one. Now that the Senate has adopted its aforementioned resolution, this is an exoneration of our position, which is: first, that our nuclear program is a peaceful one; second, that we do not believe in the use of nuclear bombs; third, that that law discriminated against Pakistan alone; and fourth, that we have paid the price of everything.

[Dirgham] Will you seek to improve your relations with India?

[Ali] A Pakistani-Indian summit was held in New Delhi within the framework of the meeting of the South Asian countries. I plan to go to New Delhi to attend the foreign ministers' meeting there. We are not in a state of boycott. We talk to each other. As regards the holding of official bilateral talks, we proposed to them the holding of such talks in my speech at the UN General Assembly, and I hope they will accept our offer.

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Minister, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK0410085695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has held talks with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in New York on the tragic situation in Kashmir. During the meeting, the foreign minister handed the secretary general a letter from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that referred to the regrettable situation in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed the need to resolve the issue on a permanent basis according to the UN Security Council resolutions. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says the letter indicated Pakistan's willingness to accept UN mediation on Kashmir and to discuss the issue at any forum in order to solve it, thereby contributing to regional and world peace.

The UN secretary general assured the Pakistani foreign minister of his commitment to resolve the Kashmir issue. He said that despite difficulties in this regard, he would continue to play his role by stepping up diplomatic efforts.

Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also discussed the Afghanistan problem with the UN secretary general. Assuring the secretary general of Pakistan's complete neutrality on Afghanistan, the foreign minister informed him that Pakistan has full confidence in the efforts of UN special representative Mahmoud Mestiri to reach an early settlement to the Afghan crisis.

Minister Advocates Indigenous Missile Defense

BK0410133095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said Pakistan will develop its own indigenous defense against India's Prithvi and other missiles. He said we will have to defend ourselves and match their capabilities with our own while remaining within the framework of the Missile Technology Control Regime. He was talking informally to newsmen in Washington at a reception hosted for him by Ambassador Maleha Lodhi. Referring to the development and deployment of ballistic missile systems by India, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said it had created a security concern within the region. The world should take notice of these developments.

The foreign minister said India should realize that no amount of repression or use of brute force could keep the Kashmiri people subjugated for long. He said Indian plans to hold elections in held Kashmir would backfire because of rigging as had been the case in the past. The people of Kashmir or the world would never accept such a farce. Answering a question, the foreign minister said Pakistan has always welcomed the idea of a third party mediation to resolve the Kashmir dispute. In the past, issues like Rann of Kutch and the water dispute were resolved by India and Pakistan through third party mediation.

Bhutto Asks Altaf Group To Depart From 'Terrorism'

BK0110115595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has urged the Altaf Group not to observe the strike today because of the terrorists who have destroyed peace in Karachi. Talking to newsmen at a reception at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad last night, she said the repeated strikes in Karachi only protect terrorists. She said there should be a difference between politics and terrorism and advised the Altaf Group to disassociate itself from terrorism.

Referring to the Government-Altaf Group talks on Karachi, the prime minister pointed out that peace was a prerequisite for the success of the talks. The reception was held on the eve of the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah said the Altaf Group called for the strike on a day when the nation began the centenary celebrations of national martyr Liaqat Ali Khan, the first prime minister of Pakistan. In a statement in Karachi, he said the Altaf Group always calls for strikes on historical occasions to destroy the peaceful environment. He appealed to the patriotic people, traders, industrialists, intellectuals and political workers to understand the conspiracy behind the strike call. The government will ensure the protection of life and the property of every citizen. The chief minister said the centenary celebrations of national martyr Liaqat Ali Khan will be observed in a befitting manner. He said no hindrance will be tolerated in the way of the celebrations.

Minister Urges Altaf Group To Set Date for Talks

BK3009154095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 30 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has asked [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] Altaf Group to select a date and venue of their convenience for the resumption of talks on restoration of peace in Karachi. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the leader of the government team for the talks, Federal Minister N.D. Khan, asked Altaf Group to desist from giving strike calls as it badly affects the atmosphere of dialogue. He

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said tomorrow's call for strike is also inappropriate in the sense that it has been given on the eve of Shaheed-i-Millet's [the first prime minister, Liaqat Ali Khan, who was assassinated on October 1951] 100th birth anniversary, which is an occasion to pay tributes to him. Strikes on such an occasion would be unproductive. Mr. N.D. Khan said the process of negotiations have reached an encouraging point where everyone was expecting a breakthrough and people were hopeful of the results. He hoped that the Altaf group will give a positive response to the government's gesture and soon return to the negotiating table.

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